

# Watch your Mouth

Sermon Notes  
by Dr. Tony Evans

## MESSAGE 1:

# DYNAMITE IN YOUR DENTURES

### SUGGESTED PASSAGE: JAMES 3:1-12 (NASB)

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. <sup>3</sup> Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. <sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. <sup>8</sup> But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; <sup>10</sup> from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. <sup>11</sup> Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

### MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on Dynamite in Your Dentures is to make people aware that through their words, people have the power to direct the course of their lives to damage lives or even to determine life itself.

**INTRODUCTION:** Although most people don't realize it, there is incredible force behind the words we use. In one breath we have the power to both build people up or tear them down.

Alfred Nobel brought the world dynamite with the hopes that it would be used for clearing large rocks and other obstacles

for the purpose of building roads and bridges. In a few short years, his invention became a tool of the military to be used against foreign enemies. To him, it was inconceivable that his dynamite would be used to destroy.

The Bible tells us that the tongue is a fire, which the devil constantly seeks to ignite into something that will destroy. One word wrongly spoken has often been the cause of broken friendships and family feuds. But this is not God's plan. That same fire can be used to edify and encourage people. When it comes to relationships, God wants us in the construction business, not the destruction business.

The Bible also says that the tongue is akin to a bit in a horse's mouth or a rudder on a ship; it is something so small, yet commands the direction of something so large! As such, words have the power to direct the course of our lives toward positive or negative ends.

In fact, the tongue holds the power of life itself. When God made the heavens and the earth, the trees and mountains, the fish and the animals, and even humanity itself, He did so by speaking simple words. As creatures fashioned in His image, we also possess life-giving speech.

Spoken words have such potency; they can motivate, instruct and console, but they also can discourage, confuse and even devastate. For this reason, we should choose what we say with care and build people up instead of tearing them down.

### SERMON POINTS:

**1. YOUR MOUTH HAS THE POWER TO DIRECT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.**

- A "perfect person" (spiritually mature) has bridled the tongue.
- We all have stumbled in how we've lived our lives, and no one is perfect.
- The "perfect person" has bridled the tongue, therefore he or she is able to bridle all the other stumbling blocks of life.



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- Your Christianity is worthless if you can't control your tongue.
- 2. YOUR MOUTH HAS THE POWER TO DO DAMAGE TO YOUR LIFE.**
- The damage done by the tongue is devastating. One single word can be like a spark that starts a fire.
  - The tongue is able to do so much damage because it has the power of hell behind it.
  - The tongue is more difficult to tame than taming wild animals.
- 3. YOUR MOUTH HAS THE POWER TO DETERMINE LIFE.**
- Christians must start relating and thinking better.
  - There is a difference between church programs and true spiritual revival.

## SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

**ALFRED NOBEL, DYNAMITE, AND THE PEACE PRIZE:** It was in 1866 that Alfred Nobel invented dynamite. He developed the explosive power of nitroglycerin in stick form so that it would bring great benefit to mankind. They began to use dynamite to clear debris for the building of roads and bridges. The power of dynamite had the ability to improve the convenience, the progress and the livelihood of mankind. But soon, nations discovered how to use it for war. That same dynamite that was created to build society could also be used to destroy life by bombing an enemy. Alfred Nobel was so impacted by the negative use of dynamite that before he died, he bequeathed his vast fortune to the establishment of the Nobel Peace Prize. He didn't want his legacy to be connected to destruction; he wanted it to be connected to peace. As people, we also have dynamite in our dentures, meaning that we have the equivalent power of dynamite just in the very words we use.

**A 1,500-POUND HORSE CAN BE STEERED WITH A LITTLE PIECE OF METAL:** When you get on a horse, a 1,500 lb. beast, you can move it to the left, and you can move it to the right with a little piece of metal in its mouth. Have you ever seen a wild stallion—a horse that's not under control? It's not bridled. That's a horse that's going to buck you off. That's a horse that's going to hurt you. That's a horse out of control. But when you put that bit in its mouth

and bring it under the control of the one who's riding it, a 100 lb. woman can steer a 1,500 lb. animal using a small piece of metal in its mouth. The correlation here is that if you control the mouth/tongue/speech, you control the rest of the body.

**AN ENTIRE CRUISE SHIP THAT HOLDS THOUSANDS CAN BE STEERED BY A TINY RUDDER:** Cruise ships today are enormous; they have malls and hold upwards of 7,000 people. They have all kinds of swimming pools, ice skating rinks, movie theatres; they are like floating cities. And when the storm breaks out, comparatively, they each have a little tiny rudder that steers the ship even though it's subject to the storm. Similar to the previous observation, the correlation here is that if you control the mouth/tongue/speech, you control the rest of the body.

**MRS. O'LEARY'S COW STARTED THE CHICAGO FIRE OF 1871:** Mrs. O'Leary's cow caused the entire city of Chicago to burn. On October the 8th, 1871, a cow belonging to Catherine O'Leary kicked a lantern in the barn and set some hay on fire. Within minutes, the entire barn was ablaze, and due to those Chicago winds, the flames ended up spreading throughout Chicago, burning a large percentage of the city, leaving 100,000 people homeless, 7500 buildings destroyed, and the deaths of 300 people. The correlation here is that one simple, seemingly innocent word or comment has the potential of spreading and creating enormous damage.

**WE CAN TAME CIRCUS AND ZOO ANIMALS MORE EASILY THAN TAMING OUR OWN TONGUES:** We've all been to the circus, and we know what it's like to see tamed animals. Whoever thought a human being could boss a lion around? The lion has the power to tear that person apart, but it's been tamed. Who would have thought we can tell a tiger what to do? The tiger goes up, sits down, runs around or jumps through hoops because a person tamed it. The ones we can't tame we place in a zoo. But animals will also fake us out. They'll make us think we tamed them until the right set of circumstances show up. Then they show us through harsh reality just how difficult it is to truly tame an animal. The correlation here is that it is more difficult to tame one's own tongue than it is to tame a wild animal.



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**THE TWO JUMPING FROGS:** Two frogs were walking one day, and unbeknownst to them there was a big ditch that they didn't see, and both frogs fell into the deep ditch. So they started doing what frogs do: they jumped, hoping to get out. But the ditch was too deep. They kept trying, but in doing so, they began to get tired. Some other frogs came along and saw their friends in the ditch. It was clear that they weren't going to make it, so they gathered around to say goodbye to their friends. "We're so sorry you're in the ditch. There's nothing we can do. It's too far for you to jump out, so we just came to say goodbye." Basically, they told their friends to give up and die.

The first frog gave up because he was just too exhausted. He just laid down, fell asleep and died. But the second frog kept jumping. His friends said, "All you're doing is killing yourself. Give up. Give up," but he refused. This frog just kept jumping until, to the shock of the frogs up top, he literally leaped out of the hole.

His friends were shocked and said, "How did you do it?"

The frog said, "I'm deaf. The only reason I hear you now is I'm close enough to read your lips. But when I was down in the ditch and saw all of you waving your hands, I thought you were encouraging me to keep jumping, so I just kept jumping until I made it." The correlation here is that the tongue has the power to give life or to take it—the power to bless or to destroy

## SERMON LINES:

This message will demonstrate the awesome power of the tongue as a tool to build up and to tear down.

This sermon will demonstrate the awesome power of the tongue to give life and death.

This sermon will encourage you to control the use of your tongue for the purpose of administering life instead of death.

## QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:

"You and I have dynamite, and it's in our dentures. Explosive power that can destroy or that can construct."

"A little match can start a forest fire; a little spark created a conflict and a blaze you were not able to put out."

"The reason why your mouth—your speech, your words, your tongue—can do so much damage is that it's got the influence of hell helping it."

"You need to be deaf to hell and keep your ears open to heaven because God wants to lift you out of the pit you're in by what you're listening to."



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