

Let Every Man Be Slow to Speak: Part 2 (James 3:13-18)

Water of Life, Dr. John Niemelä, 16 January 2014

REVIEW

Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (1:19–20)

Let every man be swift to hear (1:21–2:26)

Let every man be slow to speak (3:1-18)

Let every man be slow to wrath (4:1–5:6)

LET EVERY MAN BE SLOW TO SPEAK (3:1-18)

3:1 We should not rush to teach, because teachers face a stricter judgment at *Bēma*

3:2 All believers (even James) stumble in various ways, so the believer who can avoid stumbling in words, is mature enough to avoid stumbling in other areas of life

3:3 Similarly, one who controls a horse's mouth through a bridle and bit also controls the entire horse

3:4 Similarly, though the rudder is far smaller than sails, it enables the pilot to direct a ship

3:5a Similarly, the little tongue is a great boaster

3:5b-6a The tongue kindles (as it were) huge forest fires, the (embodiment) of evil

3:6b The tongue defiles a whole body & ignites all that our lives touch, but is itself ignited by Gehenna

3:6a In our course of life the tongue can inflame anything

3:7-8 Man really has sovereignty over all beasts, the evil & poisonous tongue excepted

3:9 The tongue's unruliness is clear, because it blesses the Creator & curses those created in His image

3:10-12 A mouth that both blesses & curses is inappropriate; as inappropriate as a fig tree yielding olives; a grapevine yielding figs; or a spring yielding both salt H₂O & fresh

NEW TEACHING

3:13 Believers are to manifest Godly wisdom through applying the word

This is the only way to manifest the source of our wisdom

How were some of James' readers trying to display their wisdom?

How slow should one be to speak? (Remember 1:19: the outline statement)

3:14–16 Bitter envy & self-centeredness (1) demonstrate that one's wisdom did not come from God (but is worldly and demonic) and (2) produce confusion and all manner of evil

3:17f Godly wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, yielding, full of mercy & good fruit, impartial, unhypocritical

Pure

Peaceable,

Gentle cf. 1:27 and 2:13

Yielding

Full of mercy cf. 2:13b

Full of good fruits cf. 1:22–25; 2:14–26

Not partial cf. 2:1–13

Not hypocritical cf. 3:14

CONCLUSION