



JAMES

The Power of the Tongue

JAMES 3:1-12



Key Themes of James

1. Trials & Temptation
2. Wisdom
3. Riches & Poverty



Key Themes

1. Trials & Temptation

2. Wisdom (action & speech)

3. Riches & Poverty

Introduced

1:2-4

1:5-8

1:9-11

Repeated

1:12-18

1:19-26

1:27

Explained

5:1-18

3:1-4:17

2:1-26



The tongue can only produce what
the heart does possess.



JAMES 3:1 *esv*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers,
for you know that we who teach will be judged with
greater strictness.



JAMES 3:2 *esv*

For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.



ISAIAH 6:5 *esv*

And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”



JAMES 3:2 *esv*

For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.



JAMES 3:3 *esv*

If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.





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The Tongue:

1. determines direction

James 3:3 *esv*

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PROVERBS 18:21 *esv*

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.



“..Your thoughts become your words.
Your words become your actions.
Your actions become your habits.
Your habits become your values.
Your values become your destiny.”

- *Gandhi*



JAMES 3:4 *esv*

Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.





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The Tongue:

1. determines direction
2. is [small but] powerful

James 3:4 *esv*

Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.



JAMES 3:5-6 *esv*

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!
⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.



JAMES 3:5-6 *msg*

A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it! It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. ⁶ A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.



PROVERBS 15:1 *msg*

A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue
kindles a temper-fire.



The Tongue:

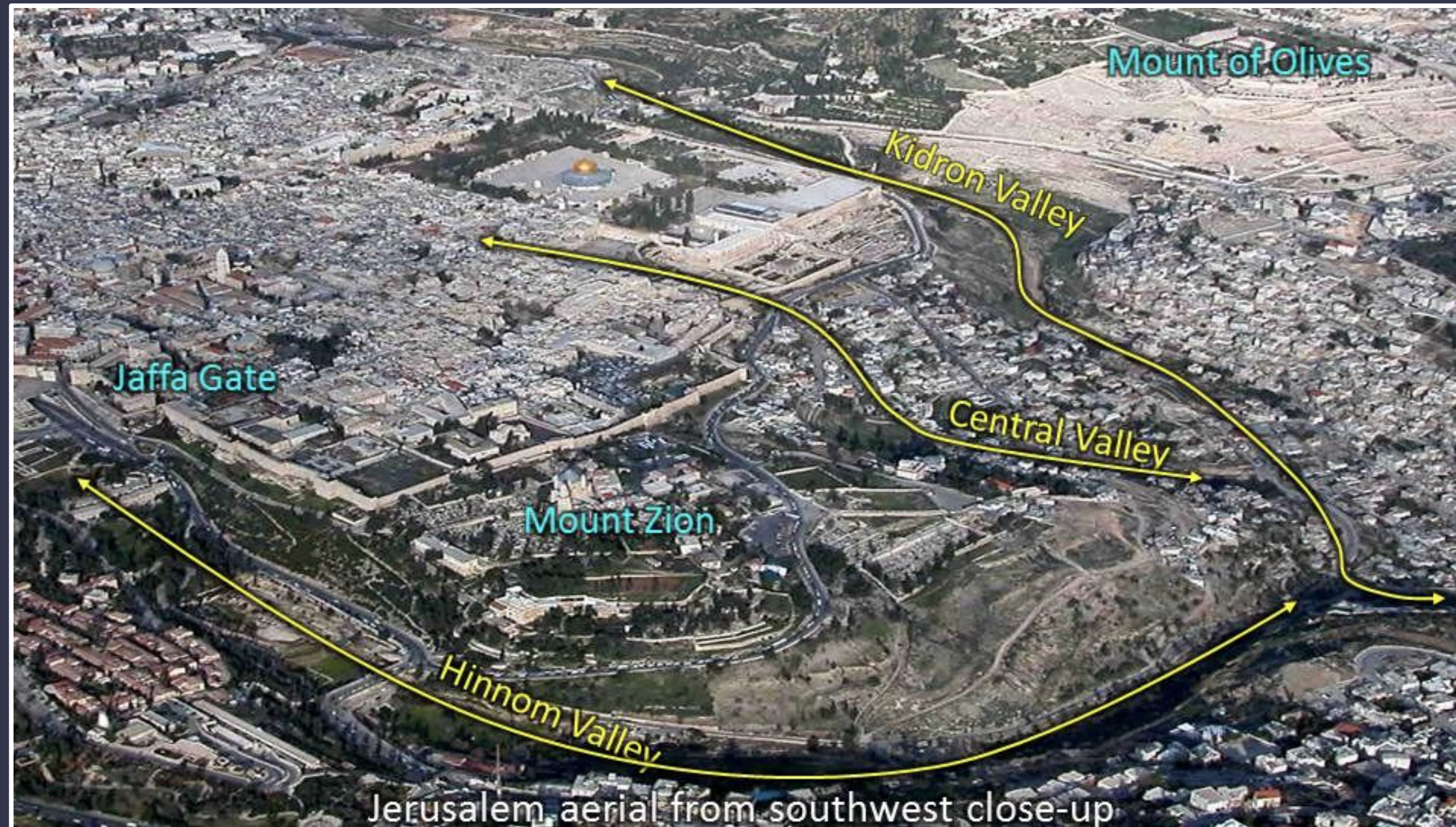
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- 3. is [small but] dangerous**

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PROVERBS 17:28 *esv*

Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.



Knowledge is knowing what to say,
and **wisdom** is knowing when to say it.



JAMES 3:7-8 *esv*

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,
⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.



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JAMES 3:9-10 *esv*

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.



EPHESIANS 4:29 *esv*

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.



Questions:
before you speak

- Is it the truth?
- Is it confidential?
- Is it necessary?
- Is it edifying?



JAMES 3:11-12 *esv*

Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.



The tongue can only produce what
the heart does possess.



LUKE 6:45 *esv*

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.



PROVERBS 4:23 *niv84*

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.



The Epistle of James

- Concise
- Vivid
- Convicting
- Practical

