

James 3:2-8a: Is There a Cure for Foot-in-Mouth Disease?

Four Metaphors of the Mouth Needing Control

1. An Unbridled Horse (v. 2-3)

- Psalm 32:9
- James 1:19
- Ephesians 4:29-30

2. An Undirected Ship (v. 4)

- Acts 24:37
- Jonah 1
- Psalm 107

3. An Unstoppable Fire (v. 5-6)

- Proverbs 16:27-28
- The Wheel
 - ❖ The wheel is a circle, a rounded and complete whole, and, therefore, the wheel of life can mean *the totality of life*.
 - ❖ Any particular point in the wheel is always moving up or down. Therefore, the wheel of life can stand for *the ups and downs of life* ...
 - ❖ It is as though the tongue is at the center or hub of the wheel of nature and, like a fireworks display, the wheel is set on fire at the center.

4. An Untamable Creature v. 7-8

- The tongue cannot be tamed by the human race, but as Jesus said, what's impossible with man is possible w/ God!

The horse cannot bridle itself (but its Master can)!

The ship cannot steer itself through stormy seas (but the Captain can, and Jesus is Captain of our soul).

The fire that burns like hell can be overcome by a greater power from heaven, transforming the tongues of sinful men.

Proverbs 26:18-21

18 Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows 19 is a man who deceives his neighbor ...

20 Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.

21 As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

Proverbs 12:18

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Application

There is healing in wisely, sincerely, humbly confessing your sin to those you sin against:

“I was wrong to speak that way. That was sin, and by God’s grace I have repented to God, but I’m also sorry for any hurt or pain I caused you. Will you please forgive me?”