**Birmingham Bible Church**

**Series: Taming Your Tonue**

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**Title: The Hasty Tongue**

***Proverbs 29:20 20****Do you see someone who speaks in haste?  
    There is more hope for a fool than for them.*

**Introduction:**

* Do you sometimes offend others because you do not engage your brain before shifting your tongue into drive?
* Have you ever made a commitment to God or man without giving it much consideration and later reneged on it?
* Words said in haste can ruin relationships at every level of human interaction-professionally, socially, and personally.
* When we give little to no real thought to our assertions, promises, or proclamations, we set ourselves up for failure, heartache, and regret.
* Since words can never be recovered, we must take great care in releasing them.

**Three ways we use a hasty tongue:**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in haste**

No matter how holy we are, we will eventually offend somebody because of hasty speech.

**James 3:2 (KJV)**

**2**For in many things **we offend all.** If any man offends not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

**Proverbs 15:1 (Amp)**

A soft *and* gentle *and* thoughtful answer turns away wrath,  
But **harsh *and* painful *and* careless words stir up anger**.

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in haste**

The Bible warns us not to be hasty in giving answers.

**Proverbs 18:13 (AMP) 13**He who **answers before he hears [the facts]—  
It is folly and shame to him.**

* Foolish people speak impulsively. They lack discipline; they do not pause and think before they speak. As a result, their reckless words get them into trouble. Wise people, on the other hand, are disciplined and careful about what they say. They think before they speak, which keeps them out of trouble.

**James 1:19-20 (AMP) 19**Understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Let everyone be quick to hear [**be a careful, thoughtful listener**], slow to speak [**a speaker of carefully chosen words and**], slow to anger [patient, reflective, forgiving]; **20**for the [resentful, deep-seated] anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God [that standard of behavior which He requires from us].

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in haste**

God does not want us to be flaky. He expects us to keep our promises.

**Matthew 5:34-37 (AMP)**

**34**But I say to you, do not make an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God; **35**or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. **36**Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you are not able to make a single hair white or black. **37**But **let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’ [a firm yes or no]; anything more than that comes from the evil one.**

Solomon warns us against making a hasty, ill-considered vow to the Lord.

**Ecclesiastes 5:2 (AMP)**

**2Do not be hasty with your mouth** [**speaking careless words or vows**] or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter before God. For God is in heaven and you are on earth; therefore, let your words be few.

A biblical example of a person who learned the lesson on the dangers of a hasty vow, was Jephthah.

**Judges 11:30-40 (AMP)**

**30Jephthah made a vow to the Lord** **and said, “If You will indeed give the Ammonites into my hand, 31then whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites, it shall be the Lord’s, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering.**” **32**Then Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight with them; and **the Lord gave them into his hand**. **33**And from Aroer to the entrance of Minnith he struck them, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim (brook by the vineyard), with a very great defeat. So the Ammonites were subdued *and* humbled before the Israelites.

**34Then Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, and this is what he saw: his daughter coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dancing. And she was his only child; except for her he had no son or daughter. 35And when he saw her, he tore his clothes [in grief] and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me great disaster, and you are the cause of ruin to me; for I have [**[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=judges+11%253A30-40&version=AMP#fen-AMP-6865a)**]made a vow to the Lord, and I cannot take it back**.” **36**And she said to him, “My father, you have made a vow to the Lord; do to me as you have vowed, since the Lord has taken vengeance for you on your enemies, the Ammonites.” **37**And she said to her father, “Let this *one* thing be done for me; let me alone for two months, so that I may go to the mountains and weep over my [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=judges+11%253A30-40&version=AMP#fen-AMP-6867b)]virginity, I and my companions.” **38**And he said, “Go.” So he sent her away for two months; and she left with her companions, and wept over her virginity on the mountains. **39**At the end of two months she returned to her father, who did to her as he had vowed; and she had no relations with a man. It became a custom in Israel, **40**that the daughters of Israel went yearly to tell the story of the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

When he led the Israelites to war against the Ammonites, he vowed that if God gave him the victory, he would sacrifice to the Lord the first thing that came out of his house upon his return. When he returned, the first thing that came out of his house was his only daughter. So, because of his hasty commitment, his daughter was sacrificed.

Tips to controlling a hasty tongue:

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Psalms 141:3

**Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth**; keep watch over the door of my lips!

We can never be totally aware of all the sensitivities of others, we must depend upon the Holy Spirit to direct our speech in a way that does not tap into their pain, distress, or other negative experiences.

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** Think before you speak.

**Proverbs 21:23**

Whoever **keeps his mouth**, and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Implement a delay rule before you respond. It could be a five-second delay, or it could be “let me think about it and I’ll get back with you.”

**Proverbs 17:28**

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

Answer:

1. Offending in Haste
2. Responding in Haste
3. Committing in Haste
4. Pray
5. Pause
6. Plan

Prayer:

Lord, I realize that my tongue can be unruly at times but help me to tame it.

Help me to be swift to hear and slow to speak. Help me to set a guard over my mouth and

Keep a watch over the door of my lips. In Jesus name, Amen!

**Small Group Guidelines**

1) Keep your sharing focused on your own thoughts and feelings.

2) Each person is free to express feelings without interruption.

3) We are here to support one another. We will not attempt to fix one another.

4) Privacy and confidentiality are basic requirements. What is shared in the group stays in the group. The only exception is when someone threatens to harm themselves or others. If that is shared, contact Pastor Mason or Lady Pam immediately.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some negative consequences of speaking with a hasty tongue?
2. Why do you think people feel the urgency to speak?
3. What do you get from James 1:19?

**James 1:19-20 (AMP) 19**Understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Let everyone be quick to hear [**be a careful, thoughtful listener**], slow to speak [**a speaker of carefully chosen words and**], slow to anger [patient, reflective, forgiving]; **20**for the [resentful, deep-seated] anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God [that standard of behavior which He requires from us].

1. Name as least one truth you found beneficial in your quest for a wholesome tongue.