

March 24, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "The Uncontrollable Tongue"

—Salvation is in Jesus Christ—

Text: James 3:7,8

**3:7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by human beings,**

**3:8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**

### Introduction

We study **the words** that **the tongue** utters. Today's Scripture also teaches **the great evil of the small tongue**.

James records that the tongue is ① **a restless evil**, ② **full of deadly poison**.

He taught about the horrible evil that our tongues (our words) can have.

**The tongue is restless.** That is exactly right. We sometimes unwillingly utter a word. When we hear something bad about us, can we keep silent? Or rather, don't we answer back with strong words by paying them back by two or three times?

It is very difficult to keep the word in our hearts and also keep silent. There is a case that the cruel word of parents, "I wish you wouldn't have been born" made their child's life collapse. Like this, the poisonous word kills the heart who listens to it, even though he who utters the word means nothing serious.

**The tongue is full of deadly poison.** It means that the word has the power to kill a man. One of serious problems in Japan is bullying. Most of the bullying problem seems to be due to the words uttered from a poisonous tongue.

We should understand that our tongue (our words) is full of deadly poison so it may kill someone.

The tongue is so small. However, it can be an awful organ.

Let's think about the tongue (our words) according to the following two points.

Main Points
-------------

## 1 . Controllable and Uncontrollable

### 1 ) The Controllable Animal Kingdom

Now, James changes the topic to the animal kingdom. He divides it into 4 kinds of kingdoms.

**Genesis 9:1 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.**

**9:2 The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands.**

The 4 kinds are as below—

**The beasts of the earth** (The beasts that walk)

**The birds in the sky** (The beasts that fly in the sky)

**Every creature that moves along the ground** (The creatures that crawl on the ground)

**The fish in the sea** (The creatures that swim in the water)

God continues as below—

**The fear and dread of you will fall on all; they are given into your hands.**

Human beings have controlled these 4 kinds of animals. However, it doesn't mean that human beings made them domestic animals or controlled every animal. It means that human nature controlled the nature of these 4 kinds of creatures; the nature of human beings is superior to that one of 4 kinds of creatures.

### 2 ) The Uncontrollable Tongue

Even though human beings control animals and are superior to them, no one can control their tongue. I repeatedly tell you, “No one can do it. There is no exception.”

The tongue is restless like a freed animal that moves around constantly. The tongue is full of deadly poison.

The writer of the Psalm sang as below—

**Psalm 58:3 Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.**

**58:4 Their venom is like the venom of a snake, like that of a cobra that has stopped its ears,**

My friends! Did God create human beings to not be able to control our tongues?

No, not at all. When God created human beings, they were very good.

**Genesis 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.**

Then, why do human beings have no power to control their tongues?

Are we hopeless now? Can we restore our situation again? Yes, God prepared the way to restore it. It is the next point we will study.

## **2 . The Way to Restore that God Prepared**

### **1 ) Why Do We Have No Power to Control the Tongue?**

The reason is that the will of human beings became weak is because of sin. We have lost the ethical and spiritual power because of sin. Human beings can't control their tongues (their words) by themselves.

Sin doesn't mean not only social sin but also the sin that the Bible teaches. Biblical sin means that we apart from God, the Creator. It is a sin(hamartia) itself, and it means off the mark. The correct way of life for human beings who were created is to walk toward God the Creator. However, we did not know God the Creator. Our parents did not teach about Him. Therefore, we start our lives without knowing God that is lives off the mark.

However, God is the One of grace. He is love. He makes us able to control our tongue by the supernatural power. God prepared the way to restore for us who repeatedly commit sins by making mistakes. We are restored through Jesus Christ.

### **2 ) The Way to Restore**

#### **① To Be Spiritually Born Again (Rebirth)**

The Bible records as below—

**John 3:1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.**

**3:2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."**

**3:3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again.”**

**3:4 “How can anyone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”**

**3:5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.**

**3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

Nicodemus (He is said to be a director of a Jewish theological school according to one theory) who was a leader of the Pharisees came to Jesus and asked Him a very important question. His question was how he could live in the kingdom of God, not live in his conflicts and problems.

Jesus replied as below—

**3:3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again.”**

However, Nicodemus couldn't understand what Jesus said.

Jesus said as below—

**3:4 “How can anyone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”**

Jesus taught two important things here.

② **Being Born of Water and the Spirit.**

Water → Repentance (of sin)

The Spirit → God's Spirit (the Holy Spirit)

A man is able to be newly born according to these two points. How happy we are! It is not by deeds, studying or charity works. It is not also by money offering. What we should do is to confess and repent before God. Jesus shed His precious blood on the cross to cleanse our sin.

**{Illustration}**

**When I was working for a planting church in Duesseldorf, Germany.**

**A junior high school student came to Sunday school. He looked very gloomy that I couldn't tell that he was a young student. He was a very smart boy, but he was desperately lonely. He gazed blankly outside the classroom during recess. He had a serious problem that he couldn't understand why he should study.**

**His parents and his grandfather graduated from the top educational institution in Japan. His parents taught him since he was small that all he had to do was to study hard so that he could enter the same university that his father and grandfather graduated from and this was the happiest way to go. Then he would get a position in a leading company and marry a beautiful woman and make a happy home.**

**However, he was troubled. He couldn't understand why he would become happy if he entered the college that his parents recommended. He already read masterpieces of Nietzsche and Tolstoy and was seeking the way to live as a human even though he was a junior high school student. However, he had no peace in his heart.**

**To make a long story short, he came to attend the Sunday school and heard about the God of the Bible first time. He was young, but he realized his sin in his own way and believed Jesus and confessed Him as his personal savior. Since then, his face became boylike and bright. He was saved by Jesus Christ who cleansed his sin.**

My friends! God can save us. If you faithfully seek Him, He is not far from us. He comes close to us and saves us.

The Bible records as below—

**1 John 5:5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**

What do you think about today's sermon? We have an uncontrollable tongue.

Let's believe Jesus Christ and walk with God's and the Spirit's protection. It is the blessed way that is prepared for us.

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: "The Uncontrollable Tongue"

—Salvation is in Jesus Christ—

We have an uncontrollable tongue that we can't control by ourselves. We know that most of our problems are caused by the words that are uttered by our tongue. The tongue is restless and full of deadly poison. No one can control their tongue.

If we want to be freed from the problem of the word, we need to be newly born by the water and the Spirit.

I really pray that we may not make a mistake by our tongues (our words). We need to be born

of water and the Spirit every day, not the old selves that are controlled by the flesh.

Let's conclude today's sermon with the following Scripture.

**1 John 5:5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**

\* God bless you!