

# The Three Strainers

## THE IMPACT OF OUR TONGUE

James 1:26, NIV – *“If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.”*

James 3:1-8 – *(1) Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. (2) We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. (3) When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. (4) Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. (5) Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. (6) The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (7) All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, (8) but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”*

## LE GAME OF THE THREE STRAINERS

### 1. Is It True?

Deuteronomy 19:14-21, NIV – *(14) Do not move your neighbor's boundary stone set up by your predecessors in the inheritance you receive in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess. (15) One witness is not enough to*

*convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. (16) If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime, (17) the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. (18) The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother, (19) then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you. (20) The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. (21) Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*

Numbers 35:30, NIV – *“Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no-one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.”*

Matthew 7:2, NIV – *“For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

## **2. Is It Good?**

Ephesians 4:29, NIV – *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*

Matthew 12:36, NIV – *“But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”*

Ephesians 5:3-4, NIV – *“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.”*

## **3. Is It Useful?**

Ephesians 5:6, NIV – *“Let no-one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.”*

James 3:9-10, NIV – *“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”*