

- > **Great Day**.... We are so glad that you have joined us here, to take in what the Lord is speaking to us about: ***our words***.
- This message segment, is brought to you by: **Discovery Crossroads Ministries**... Jesus spoke about God, when He said, "***With God, All things ARE possible!***".... and that's why we believe in our ministry motto: "***Where dead-ends, become alive again!***".
- > **Today's message** title is: "**Pulling The Trigger**".
- Just the idea of "pulling the Trigger" on something, brings about the notion/thought that: there could be the possibility of something, or someone, getting hurt....(*I speak here to the operations of a gun going off*).
- > **So**, know that a gun can be used in **2 very different ways**:
  - 1) to **hunt** animals. So as the world progressed in knowledge (*advancing beyond the use of "bow & arrow"*), people learned how to hunt animals in a more modern way – with guns! Our ever-growing culture realized, that a firearm is more efficient, for hunting & putting food on the table – and really: there is Nothing wrong with that!
- **However**, **The 2<sup>nd</sup> way** that a gun can be used is:

2) to **hurt** human beings. For those who have a sound & undisturbed mind - the idea of using a gun on a human being, should give you deep chills (*bad chills*).

- As a gun can kill an animal, likewise it can effectively kill a person. There is just something so Wrong, with aiming a gun at a human being and pulling the trigger!

> **Now**, I am not here to talk so much about "**guns**" today, but something more important – the "**concealed weapon**", hiding in our mouths, behind our lips. The "gun" is a mighty powerful thing, but I challenge you to see our "**tongues**", as something that is even more powerful.

...We typically only shoot **a gun**, a few times in our lives – **But** shooting off **our mouths** (*tongues*), happens about every minute, of every day!..... I believe that we **Underestimate** the power of our tongue..... We hardly ever realize **the Results** of the use of our tongues..... We all carry such a **potential-danger**, everywhere we go - with this body part, that sits right behind our lips! The human tongue is an amazing thing, even though it is so little – and with it we can: **lick** an ice-cream cone, or **stick it out** in disgust at people!

> **Point 1** today: "**Words are like bullets & bombs**" – they can **Heal**, **but** they can also **Hurt**....

The human tongue, literally shoots: "**People bullets**" - *even dropping*: "**people bombs**". Every day, we pull it's "**trigger**" on people... some we like, and others we do not like - but the words we use with them, reflects our attitude towards them!

-- Sometimes we give people a "**gentle pull**" of our tongue, speaking "**soft**" words of: love, care, concern, support, peace, encouragement, etc. But other times, we give people a "**rough pull**" of our tongue, speaking "**hard**" ("*sharp*") words of: hatred, disregard, neglect, opposition, chaos, sarcasm, discouragement, etc. With our "hard" words, we: **1)** stir up people's emotions - **2)** make them question their conscious choices - **3)** cause divisions to occur within their soul - **4)** pressure them into changing their good viewpoints!

> We can really "switch up" our words with people. For ex: on **fighter jets**, the pilots can hit a "switch" (*on the throttle, or on the stick*), and "**switch**" from "**guns to bombs**".

With just the push of a button, they can select "**guns**" (*for a smaller amount of damage*) - **or** they can "switch" to "**bombs**" (*for a maximum amount of destruction*).

**Think on it:** We are all guilty of acting like a "fighter pilot" with people... we can quickly switch from "**guns to bombs**", with our words! We really give some people our **kindest** words, while we give others our **ugliest** words! Seriously, this should NOT be!

> **Please hear** about: the power of the tongue, found in the words of the apostle **James**.... [James 3:2-12](#), "2 *Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could **control** our tongues, we would be perfect and could also **control** ourselves in every other way. 3 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. 4 And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. 5 In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And among all the parts of the body, **the tongue is a flame of fire**. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. **It can set your whole life on fire**, for it is set on fire by hell itself. 7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. **It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison**. 9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. 10 And so **blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth**. **Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!** 11 Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? 12 Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring." NLT*

-- Lots happening in this passage, but let me Highlight just a few.

-- **James said** that the human-tongue is:

1) a **flame of fire** – according to verse 6..... The tongue can spread conflict & destruction fast, like any wildfire can! Often, “**forest-fires**” occur in nature, because of natural causes – like lightning....(*it only takes a spark, to get a fire going!*) **However**, many “**soul-fires**” have been started, because of people’s Reckless words! If the tongue can truly be a flame of fire (*consuming people’s spirits*) - **Are “YOU” a “verbal-arsonist”?** **Do “YOU” use your words, to tear people down?** **Put that flame out folks – start using affirming, healing, words!** **Don’t be a “Mythical-dragon”, going around spewing fire on people!**

-- **But**, **James also said** that the human-tongue is:

2) **full of deadly poison** – according to verse 8..... It’s amazing that James, compared our spoken words to “**poison**”! I can imagine here: that our hard & bad words to others, are something like adding poison to someone’s “**life-drink**”.

\* We have got to realize that: words are not just something that rolls off our lips, and that’s it - *our words are literally “taken in” (absorbed/consumed) by other people, and then digested*. And if those words are “**Toxic**”, they can cause people to experience “**internal/spiritual**” damage!

**Time to Detox our words folks! We've got to break out the Tums, and Neutralize the toxins near our tonsils (iow: Neutralize the words, that slide off our tongue). We've got to quit acting like "Secret-agent man", taking out the spies around us, with poison drinks!**

-- **Yet, Thirdly, James said** that the human-tongue:

**3) spews out both Blessings & Curses** - according to [verse 10](#).

This fine little tongue of ours, can say "**I love you**" to one person, and say "**I hate you**" to another person – *sometimes within hours of both conversations!* **Aren't we Good with our words, to a close friend - and Hateful with our words, to a perceived enemy?** The author James says, "That ought NOT to be!" **We should give Everyone, our Best, Good, words!** He even asks, Does both saltwater & freshwater, come from the same spring? No/Not! **If "YOU" have "2 Springs" flowing out of your tongue, it is time to "Damn" the Bad (Saltwater) spring up – and only allow the Good (Fresh/Nutritious) water to flow off your lips!** **This world has its share of hard times, and we should Not ADD to people's troubles - by giving them "OUR" sorry, evil, words!**

> **Let me close this point**, with [Verse 6b](#).... that passage said, "the tongue is a flame of fire. (Now listen)... It is a whole

*world of wickedness, **corrupting YOUR entire body. It can set YOUR whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.***".....(**"YOUR"** body – **"YOUR"** life)-(Our words, hurt us!)

-- **The point is:** Our tongue Not only affects other people, it also messes with **"OUR"** spirit & body too! **Proverbs 13:3**, *"He who **guards** his mouth, **protects** his life - **but** the one who **opens** his lips, invites **his own ruin.**"* BSB

.... **OUR** own tongue has the potential to: **Corrupt OUR** physical body, and **Influence** the direction of **OUR** life!

The very words we use, are often the very words we live out.

- think on it.... someone cusses around you, and you find it easier to start cussing too! The "F-bomb" has become so "common place" in our world today – **and yet**, it **used to be** a very ugly term in our past society! People have suddenly made it **"OK"** to use it! Having a **"Potty-mouth"** really used to be a disgraceful thing to be called, but people today have tried to make it cool - **Yet**, God still does Not approve of "Potty-mouth" language! **Seriously**, the kind of people you hang with, will influence your behavior (*and your words*) – *"Bad character, **corrupts** good morals!"*.

-- **Are "YOU" a fighter pilot with "YOUR" words, quickly switching from "guns" ("soft words"), to "bombs" ("hard words")? If you are: Ask, why "YOU" are Not**

*giving everyone the "softer, gentler, words, that they need & deserve? Do you have a "Potty-mouth"? Flush that kind of talk, and use better words with people!*

> **Point 2** then today: "**We ARE accountable for WHERE our tongue "bullets & bombs" land**" .....

- With every whip of our tongue, words fly out that land somewhere... words that could be: pillow soft, or maybe: barbwire sharp

-- **But here's the deal**: We are **Responsible** for every word that we speak! Matthew 12:35-37, "35 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. 36 And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle (careless/hurtful) word you speak. 37 The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you." NLT

> **So, vs 35** screams a major Truth: Every word that we speak finds its origins, as having come from *within the heart* – thus, the human heart speaks words! If the words we speak are of **human origins**, then they are probably Not so good. But if they are of **God's words**, they will be Good, Calm & Comforting. An Unknown author once said: "**The Holy**

***Ghost, will never INSPIRE YOU to: gossip, lie, steal, or ruin the reputation of others!"***

-- This verse speaks to: the words that come from the "treasury" of your heart. That means: *your heart is a "storehouse", storing up the kinds of words that make up **who you are**.* What comes out of "YOUR" storehouse (*heart & mouth*), **IS** who you are! *Look at your words, they tell WHO you are!*

\* **Hear me folks**, "There is no better judge of our heart, than the words that come out of us – and people & God, **WILL use them to judge us!**" ..... If we all would just "Check" our words & tone, **BEFORE** speaking – then we could spare ourselves (*and others*), a whole lot of heartache!

> **Vs 36** said, "**you must give an account on judgment day for every idle (careless/hurtful) word you speak.**"

- There's a major reality here: We all WILL one day give an **Account** of the words we spoke, before God Almighty!

-- **First understand:** this passage said, "**YOU**" will give an "Account" to God, for all YOUR spoken terrible words. **That means:** No one else (no other human being) can stand up for YOU on Judgement Day – **YOU** will have to use your words, to explain to God, why you spoke as you did on earth!

- **Now**, I said, "**no other human being**" could speak for you - **But**, I did Not say that, "**Jesus couldn't Stand in the Gap for you, and erase your past sinful words**"! **Yet**, He can only do that for you though, if He is YOUR "**Savior & Lord**"... **Yes**, having a personal relationship with Jesus (*asking Him to forgive your every sin - words included*), and be your Savior & Lord - is the only way to be forgiven for your harsh words!
  - **OK, something else here**.... the word "**Account**" means: "**a Reckoning**", which carries the idea of "**Responsibility**".
  - ....These days, people **Reject** having anything to do, with **being Responsible** for their words or actions. They rather play the "**blame-game**", casting (*projecting*) the fault of their words or actions onto other people...(*they are so quick to cast the blame of their failures, onto other people!*) **BUT God**... **God** will NOT play that game on Judgement Day! We will NOT be able to **blame** (**pin**) OUR failures, onto other people - God won't allow that kind of "**Irresponsibility**"! We WILL give an "**Account**" of **OUR** lives - **Yes**, every "*idle/carless/ugly/evil*" word that we spoke, will have to be Accounted for!
  - **Vs 37** , "**The words you say, will either: acquit you (find you blameless), or condemn you (find you guilty).**"
- There's a parallel to this passage: Our words Acquit us, or Condemn us: **1**) in the here & now, and **2**) later in heaven.

- **Folks**, people will judge our words "on earth", just as God will later do at "the Judgement!" **Don't think** that people (*and God*), **cannot hear** "the Truth or a Lie", **from your words!** **Oh**, we think that we can FOOL people with our words, but God will ensure that "*your sins WILL find you out*"!.....
- **Don't be fooled**... the words you speak, WILL Acquit you, or Condemn you, **both**: on earth (*now*), or before God (*later*).
- **Are YOU setting "people-fires", everywhere you go, or Are you "putting the fires out"?**.../ **Are YOU "Poisoning" people's "life-cups", or Are you "Detoxing" them?**.../ **Are YOU "hunting & killing" people with your words, or Are you "Healing" them?**.../ "**Word-Accountability**", is the call of this message today!
- We all need to be more "**sensitive**" to people's "**emotions & triggers**" – *while at the same time*, "**sensing**" (*watching*) for signs of their "emotional-escalation". We are to do our best to "**Defuse**" those "escalating-emotions", with words & actions that comes from us having Genuine "**love & respect**" for each other!
- **God wants** each of us to treat other people, just as He treats us – *with*: Genuine Love, Grace, Humility, Mercy, Kindness, Patience, Forgiveness. We are All Broken people - every one of us.... and we do the same evil things, that we judge others

for doing! We must realize this, before we can ever offer people "**Grace**", every day! **Yes**, We can never stop hurting people with our words, until we realize that: **we are sinners, just as they are!...**

\* **Mark 12:31** says, "*Love your neighbor, **just as** you love **yourself**.*" NLT **And**, **Matthew 7:12** says, "*In everything then, do to **others**, as you would have them do to **you**.*" BSB

-- **Beautiful people** – I'm asking you to "**Un-cock the Trigger**" **of your tongue**:

-- "*Do all that **you** can, to live in peace with everyone.*" Romans 12:18

-- "**Make allowance** for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. **Remember**, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13

-- "*Let **your** conversation be gracious and attractive, so that **you** will have the right response for everyone.*" Colossians 4:6

-- "*Kind words are like **honey** - **sweet** to the soul, and healthy for the body.*" Proverbs 16:24

-- **Listen**: "*Those who **guard** their mouths and their tongues - keep themselves from **calamity (troubles)**.*" Proverbs 21:23

-- **Psalmist prayer**: "**Take control** of what I say O LORD, and **guard** my lips." Psalm 141:3

**Seriously, Do YOU need Help "guarding your mouth, from speaking terrible words"?... Ask God for Help - just as the Psalmist did.**

- \* **If your wild tongue needs God's Help – *Ask Him for Help now!***
  - \* **If you've Never asked Jesus to be your Savior & Lord, and to forgive you of every sin you've committed – *Ask Him now!***
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### **Discovery questions:**

- 1)** Have you ever shot a gun; it's a powerful device huh? OK, so have you ever shot your mouth off with someone – and did your words cause them to open-up to you, or put their walls up to you?
- 2)** Have you ever thought about: how your tongue is a "*concealed weapon*", that you tote around with you everywhere? *Hum?*
- 3)** Have you ever realized that: your words have meaning, and therefore they could be like "*bullets or bombs*" to someone that you speak to (*now: they can Hurt people, or Heal them*)?
- 4)** Does it ever amaze you, how quickly people (*and yourself*),

can “*switch-up*” the kind of words that you use with other human beings? (*meaning: Are you amazed that YOUR tongue can speak blessings to one person, and so very quickly speak words of death to another person?*)

- 5) Let me ask you this: Do believe that speaking to people harshly (*even sarcastically*), is “*a sin*”? The answer is “yes”, because it contradicts how Christ told us to speak & act with others – see: [Luke 6:27-31](#) and answer this for yourself.
  - 6) Have you ever imagined that some of YOUR words are likened to “*a flame of fire*”, or “*poison*”? Read through [James 3:2-12](#), and decide for yourself if you are packing (*pulling the trigger*), using fiery, poisonous, words with people?
  - 7) Do you think that you ARE a “*verbal-arsonist*”, burning people down with your words – Or that, maybe you ARE acting like a “*secret agent person*”, poisoning the life-drinks (*lives*) of others? Only you & God know if you ARE or not?
  - 8) James said that our tongues speak out words of “*Blessings*” to some people, and words of “*Curses*” with others! So, Do you do that? Do you say “*I love you*” to some people, and switch your tongue to say “*I hate you*” to other people?
- \* Understand, God is Love... and if you have Christ, you speak only Love – but if you do NOT have Christ, then it is easy for you to Love & Hate various people!

- 9)** With the idea of being “double-tongued” (*in question 8*); Can you at all, understand how you can be hurting YOURSELF by Cursing other people – esp. when God’s Word says, “*You will be judged, the same way you judge others*”? [Matthew 7:2](#)
- 10)** With the understanding that we actually hurt OURSELVES, when we hurt others – What do you make of [Proverbs 13:3](#)?
- 11)** Is it possible, that in the end of all time – that we WILL BE “*Responsible*” for the kind of words, that we spoke to people during our life on earth? Read [Matthew 12:35-37](#) (*esp. vs 36*), and ask yourself what that all means to you? What does that passage mean, that “WE” will give “*an account*” to God, about our words? What does our having to give “an Account” in heaven, even look like?
- 12)** When the passage spoke of “*the Treasury*” of your heart – just what does that mean? Yet, that verse speaks of the Treasury of a “*Good*” heart, or the Treasury of a “*evil*” heart - just what does that mean – and what does that mean to YOU? Remember, God will judge us by the motives of our hearts – [1 Samuel 16:7](#).
- 13)** Do you play the “*Blame-game*” with your words & actions? Though you might get away with it on earth – Do you really believe that you can get away with it in heaven on Judgement Day?

- 14)** Are you “*setting people fires*” with your words, or are you “*putting them out*”?
- 15)** Are you “*poisoning*” people’s lives with your words, or are you “*detoxing*” them?
- 16)** Are you “*hurting*” people with your words, or are you “*healing*” them?
- 17)** This message spoke about: “**Word-Accountability**” - So, how will YOU become more Accountable, with the words that you speak, in the future?

> Key scriptures used at the end of the message:

- Mark 12:31
- Matthew 7:12
- Romans 12:18
- Colossians 3:13
- Colossians 4:6
- Proverbs 16:24
- Proverbs 21:23
- Psalm 141:3