

Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshipping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

"ME AND MY BIG MOUTH"

James 3

by JoAnne Ostermeier

"Me and my big mouth!" "Why did I say that?" How often do you find yourself saying these words? People have been given the gift of speech, and it is through this gift that the Lord set humans apart from the animals. With our mouths we are to praise and magnify the Lord!

And yet we use our mouths for reckless words, grumbling and complaining, lying, gossip and slander. The apostle James warns us strongly of that small part of our body, the tongue. With the words we use and the way in which we speak we can and do hurt people. As parents we yell at our children, as friends we gossip and slander other people, and as working people we are ready lie our way out of any situation. We do these things without any regard for our family, friends, colleagues, etc.

James does make it seem impossible for us to control our tongue. He says that we are controlled by our tongue, rather than the other way around. So, does that mean that, since it is impossible to control our tongue we need not even try? No! we must think before we speak, we must apologize for our nasty words, lies, and "tall tales." Wisdom is reflected in our speech! Wisdom comes from the Lord as a gift to those who seek Him and seek to do His will. Is it our desire to speak with kindness; showing respect to our family and neighbor? Then let us seek the wisdom that will determine how we speak and what we say. Wisdom will control our speech and controlled speech will promote peace. This is what the Lord says through His servant James.

JoAnne Ostermeier is a member of Trinity Canadian Reformed Church.

<http://www.trinitycanrc.org>

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