



**Mennonite  
Church**  
Canada

Resource Centre

# From our Churches

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## **Are You Talking to Me?**

An adaptation of James 3:1-13

*(This could be done by one person using a hand puppet or by more readers)*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.

If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies.

Or look at ships, though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

**Tongue:** Are you talking to me? Sure I can scale that mountain, I can do it faster than you can. Just watch me.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!

**Tongue:** This small thing, how can it do any harm? A fire, what you talking about a fire for? How can I start a fire. Now maybe if I had a match – if I don't get carried away and put it out with my excessive drooling!

And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell.

**Tongue:** I can do all of that? Wow, that is awesome that I have so much power. Who should I talk to first? On whom should I impart my wisdom?

For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species.

**Tongue:** That is right, we lord it over you. Maybe now those animals will know their place. I am in charge and what I say goes.

But no one can tame the tongue, - a restless evil instrument, full of deadly poison.

**Tongue:** Hey that is not a very nice thing to say.

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.

**Tongue:** I didn't know I could do both of those things. Don't blame me, I am not responsible.

From the same mouth come blessings and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

**Tongue:** Okay, okay, I get the message. Okay, maybe I should not have said those things about my brother, but he deserved it. And that sales clerk, well, she was just incompetent. But I did see how my encouraging words made by friend's day. Does that count?

Does a spring bring forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?

**Tongue:** You mean I have to choose? Right now? I don't know if I can just say positive and encouraging words. Sometimes I just feel like blasting someone. What if I drop a hammer on my toe?

Can a fig tree yield olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No more can the sea yield fresh water. Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.

**Tongue:** Alright I get the message; listen more, talk less and when I speak, choose my words carefully. I can do that, I guess I don't dominate the universe if I take that gentleness stuff seriously. Do the other parts of the body have to listen to these words too? I bet the eyes could use some advice. I know what you are going to say, work on my own log before I try, and take the log out of someone else's eye. I think I heard that somewhere. See, I am working on my listening already!