

SO SEND I YOU, INC. 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Saint John Baptist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: Feb 24, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every day, until Mar 31, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82089300351?pwd=qdHdd5LGaTRWPhJCRgOxsK6bL2Fnji.1>

Meeting ID: 820 8930 0351

Passcode: 628471

Dial by your location

- **+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**
- **+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

DAY 10 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

THE SMALL THINGS

Rev. Dr. Johnny Turner

James 3:3-5 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.”

Many people belittle or disregard small things. Being faithful to small things is crucial because they grow into bigger things. They view them as unimportant. Like the bits in a horse's mouth and the rudder in a ship, the tongue is small, but significant. James introduces this chapter with an essential factorial and biblical reality regarding tongue taming. The tongue can be ruthless, disrespectful, and ugly. Therefore, it is small and can be dangerous and damaging to one's character. Small things set the path for a fruitful journey or a fruitless journey. Remember, the small rudder moves the ship, and the tongue moves the body (See James 3:4). They must never be overlooked or viewed as inferior because they speak loud for what lies ahead. The context of this passage teaches that the tongue impacts life's principles, methods, and direction. Everyone must try to know when to speak and when to be quiet. The language does not act as a solo

entity but must be guided by the heart and consciousness of the individual. One scholar says, "the tongue is the key to the whole body."

The tongue is a small instrument of pain because too much talking can be a disadvantage when expressed in a negative context. The tongue in James is an unruly boil of fire that penetrates the heart and minds of individuals. It is a thorn of pain and can lead to corruption. Some people have a hard time keeping quiet. The Bible says, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies" (1 Peter 3:10). To be transparent, trying to tame the language is beyond our ability; it takes the direction of the Holy Spirit to intervene in the process of resetting and refocusing.

The tongue is a strange paradox; it is small and, at the same time, leaves a significant impact because it is a small spark that blazes the forest (See James 3:5). An uncontrolled tongue is restless and relentless. It is disturbed because it seeks to bring havoc to small situations and transition to larger areas. Treat small things carefully; they are the core of more significant things.

Prayer:

Eternal God, help the Body of Christ to follow the Holy Spirit and not be guided by the encouraging evil of the tongue, but use the good of the language to leave a lasting and loving impression on people's lives. Thank you, God, for the small things. In Jesus' Name. Amen.