

<p>A</p>	<p><u>The Imperative of Taming the Tongue</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Teachers ... will be judged more strictly” as they ought to be role models. The teaching profession requires one to speak more; teachers may easily fall into sin. In addition, the tongue, though small, has great potential to harm others. • “If anyone does not fall short in speech, he is a perfect man”, meaning, a spiritually mature individual is able “to bridle his whole body”, like when someone “put bits into the mouths of horses”, and this small bit guides the large body of a horse; or a “very small rudder” that directs a large ship. • Teachers portrayed in Scriptures – according to the OT tradition, it was a task of the wise to lead the young and inexperienced to true wisdom, which was grounded in the fear of the Lord and entailed upright conduct, much like the authors of Proverbs, Sirach, and Wisdom. Jesus, often addressed as “teacher” or rabbi”, continues the tradition of the sages in OT. However, he differs from them: he speaks on his own authority and emphasizes a relationship with himself. Jesus reveals and leads humanity to God the Father. Jesus presents himself as the only way, truth, and life. The Jews were unable to accept Jesus’ role as the teacher who claimed equality with God. • Two ironies: While humans can tame every kind of beast and bird, however, nobody is able to tame the tongue: “With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God”. Cursing human beings who are made in the image of God = cursing God; against the commandment of love your neighbours. 	<p>3:1-12</p> <p>3:1, CCSS</p> <p>3:2-6, CCSS Lk 6:45, Rm 12:36-37</p> <p>CCSS p 68</p> <p>Mt 8:19, 19:16; Mt 5:21-45, 7:29, 10:37-40; Jn 1:18, 14:6; SN1</p> <p>3:7-12, CCSS 2:8, Lv 19:18</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Characteristics of The Wise Person</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wise person possesses great virtues; he/she is gentle and humble; fruits of the Holy Spirit. In the Beatitudes, the meek will inherit the earth. They do not bear “bitter jealousy and selfish ambition” in their hearts, they “do not boast and be false to the truth”. 	<p>3:13-18</p> <p>3:13-14, CCSS, Ga 5:22-23, CCC 1832 Mt 5:5</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such earthly and demonic wisdom brings “jealousy and selfish ambition ... disorder and every foul practice”. Contrarily, “the wisdom from above is ... pure, ... peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity”. 	3:15-18, CCSS Mt 5:8-9
C	<p><u>The Source and Resolution of Conflict</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wars and conflicts come from “your passions that make war within your members”. Humans “covet but do not possess”, therefore, “kill”; “envy but you cannot obtain”, therefore, “fight”. “Cannot obtain” because “you do not ask”; “You ask but don not receive, because you ask wrongly”. “To be a lover of the world means enmity with God”, becoming “adulterers” as they “exchange the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator”. Abraham, “called a friend of God”, chose God as he was tested and asked to sacrifice his son Isaac. Unfortunately, the spirit in our heart is filled with jealousy and love for the world, leading to pride. Therefore, we must remember that, “Towards the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he shows favour”. The “proud” are many but those who are willing to repent and “humble” themselves are few. Those we are willing to “submit to God”, “resist the devil”, “draw near to God”, “cleanse your hands”, “purify your hearts”, “begin to lament, to mourn, to weep”, humble yourselves before the Lord”. 	4:1-10 4:1-3, CCSS Ex 20:17 4:4-6, CCSS Rm 1:25, CSB Proverbs 3:34 4:7-10, CCSS Ps 51:19, Lk 18:9-14 SN2
D	<p><u>The Proud Judging Their Brothers; Attending to One’s Business as if God did not Exist.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Whoever speaks evil of a brother” has violated the 8th Commandment and the commandment of love your neighbours. This person has not only judged his brother but also the law; thinking that he does not need to follow the law, “not a doer of the law but a judge”, a role that belongs to God. When we go on about our business without trusting God or acting as if God did not exist, we are no different than atheists. Instead we should live through the lens of, “If the Lord wills it, we shall live to do this or that”; avoid “boasting in arrogance. All such boasting is evil”. 	4:11-17 4:11-12, CCSS Ex 20:16, Lv 19:18 4:13-17, CCSS 1Cor 1:31

Special Notes:

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1. Rabbi Neusner's Dialogue with Jesus – "Jesus' claim to authority is at issue...Christ now stands on the mountain, he now takes the place of the Torah...Is it really so that your master, the son of man, is lord of the Sabbath...I ask again – is your master God?" (Jesus of Nazareth I, p.110).
2. James instructs his audience "to lament, to mourn, to weep" especially in the liturgy.

In the Mass for the Forgiveness of Sins: "Almighty and most gentle God, who brought forth from the rock a fountain of living water for your thirsty people, bring forth, we pray, from the hardness of our hearts, tears of sorrow, that we may lament our sins and merit forgiveness from your mercy."