

What Cookie Learns

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

James 3:6 And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8 But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Cookie:	Hey TJ, did you hear about Doc? He went and bought a new hat. He always said he would never get rid of that old one. Went through all sorts of trouble with that hat -- wars, hard times, more wars.
TJ:	Well Cookie, I don't think getting rid of that hat is all that bad -- it had a peculiar smell.
Cookie:	I heard he bought the new one 'cuz he wants Miss Amy to like him.

Boss:	Now Cookie, remember the little talk we had about gossip?
Cookie:	Aw, Boss that's not gossip, I was just telling TJ that Doc is sweet on Miss Amy.
Boss:	Cookie!
Cookie:	Oh, I just can't ever do anything right. I tried loading my grub and dropped half of it on the ground. Then found out TJ here isn't going to be helping me with the cookin' or the cleanin' up. I just can't seem to please anybody.
Boss:	Cookie, all that complaining is not going to do you any good at all.

Cookie:	Sure it does, it makes me feel better.
Boss:	The Bible says the tongue is like a fire and can consume a man.
Cookie:	Well how does it do that?
Boss:	It talks all about it over the book of James.
TJ:	Yeah, Cookie one day that tongue of yours is going to make you just burn up.

Boss:	No, that is not what it means. The Bible is teaching us to learn to control what we say so others can see Jesus in us.
Boss:	It is also saying when we say things that are not true, are unkind, or we complain all the time -- it is like a fire that burns out of control and hurts everyone.
Cookie:	You know that I don't want to hurt anyone -- especially Doc or Miss Amy.
Boss:	I know that Cookie.
Cookie:	What else does the Bible say?

Boss:

Well it says that we need to say good and kind things about each other because we are made like God.

Cookie:

I can do that. Doc's new hat does look real nice.

TJ:

It smells good too.

Boss:

Now that's what the book of James had in mind all the time.

Cookie:

Sure feels better to say nice things too -- makes me feel all warm inside.

Boss:

I knew you could do that Cookie and you've been a good influence on TJ too.

Cookie:

Well I like that just fine and I guess that's why you are the trail boss.