

Body Parts

Making Sure That We Honor God with All of Us



Body Parts

- Our Ears
- Our Eyes
- Our Tongues
- Our Hands
- Our Feet
- Our Hearts



Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?

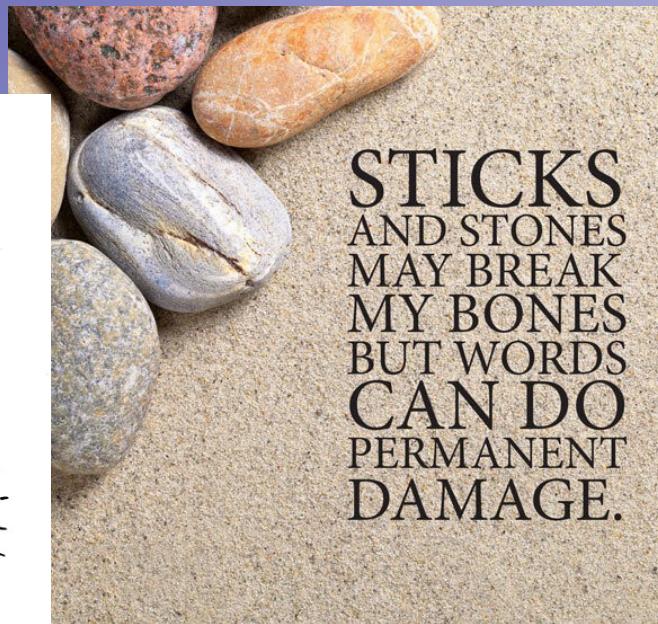
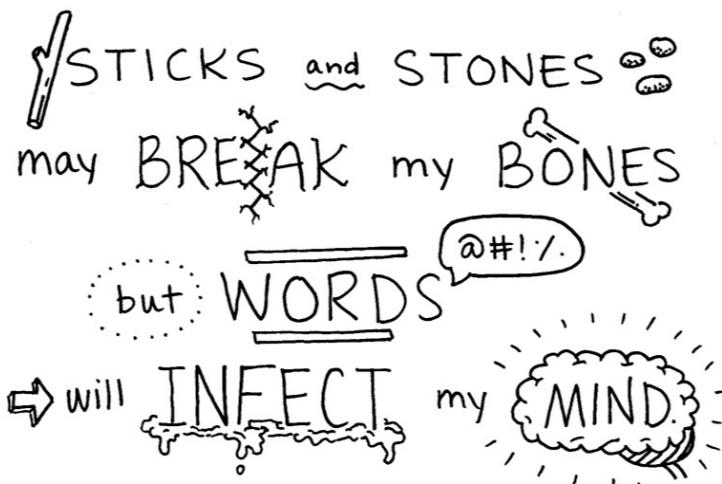
“To speak without thinking is to shoot without aiming.”

(Charlie Chan)



Our Tongues

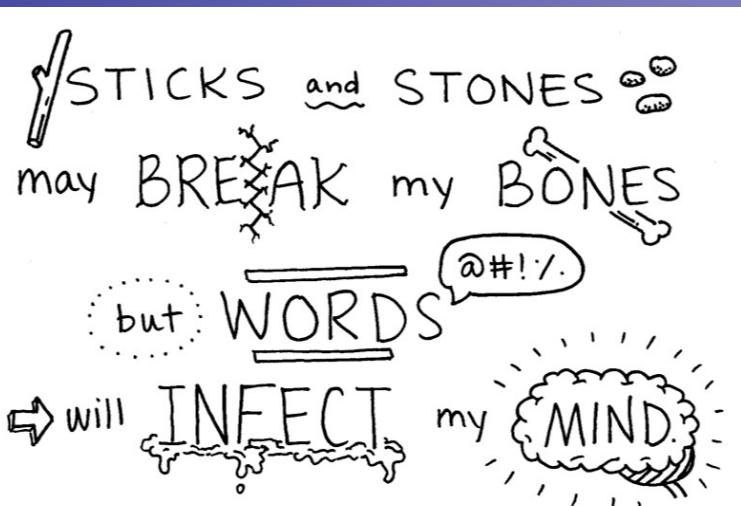
- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
 - Think about a couple of familiar aphorisms—
 - “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”
 - Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
 - There have been a ton of “spin-off” aphorisms refuting this nursery rhyme...
 - What are people trying to get at here—and do you agree with them?
 - How carefully do you and I watch our words, then, if they're really that powerful?



Sticks and stones
may break bones,
but words can
shatter souls.
Words matter.
Choose wisely.

Our Tongues

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 - Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
 - There have been a ton of “spin-off” aphorisms refuting this nursery rhyme...
 - How can words “infect my mind”?



Our Tongues



Funky little teaching moment...

- Are you familiar with the “Mandela Effect”?
- It’s the idea that we create a *mental* “reality” by our shared stories that supersedes our *actual* reality

(The name of concept idea comes from how many people were certain—*absolutely certain*—that Nelson Mandela died as a political prisoner in South Africa in the 80s when the **Truth** is that he survived his imprisonment to later be elected the first black President of South Africa in 1994 and finally passed away in 2013)

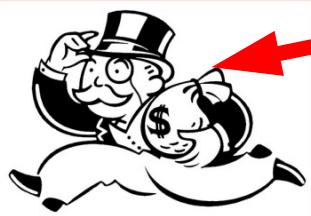


Our Tongues



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- Are you familiar with the “Mandela Effect”?
 - It’s the idea that we create a *mental* “reality” by our shared stories that supersedes our *actual* reality
 - So people share a mental “social reality” when we talk about what we think that we know—and then that shared mental “social reality” *becomes* reality to us
 - Which of these is the *correct* logo?
 - What’s wrong with *this* picture?

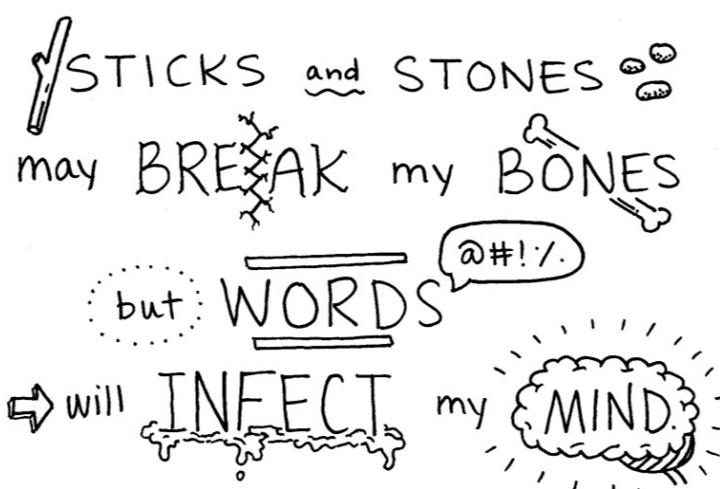


Our Tongues



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 - Which of these is the *correct* logo?
 - What’s wrong with *this* picture?
 - How does all of this correlate to what we’ve already talked about in this class?



Our Tongues



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 - So people share a mental “social reality” when we talk about what we think that we know—and then that shared mental “social reality” *becomes* reality to us
 - That’s no big deal when you’re talking about the Berenstain **Berenstain** Bears
 - But what about when it affects our perceptions of really *important* issues, or if it takes on a *destructive* force of its own?



The Berenstain Bears



The Berenstain Bears

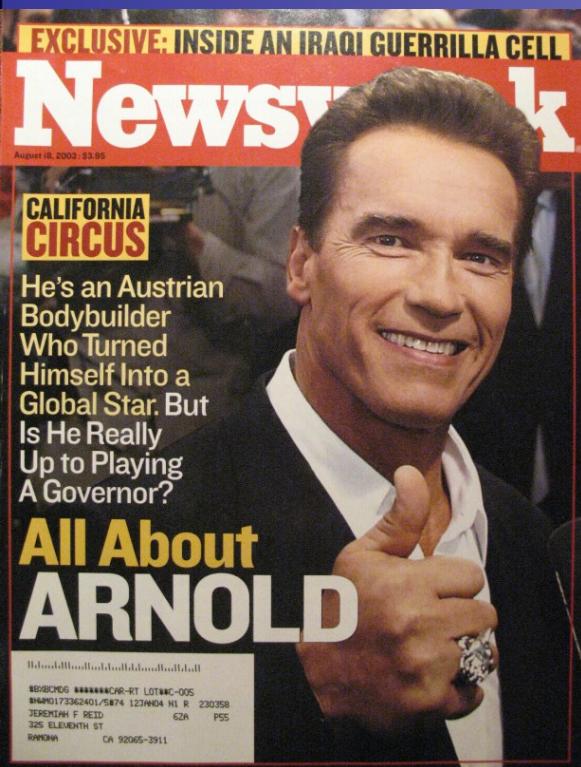


Our Tongues



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- Are you familiar with the “Mandela Effect”?
 - It’s the idea that we create a *mental* “reality” by our shared stories that supersedes our *actual* reality
 - In August of 2003, *Newsweek* printed an article about prostitution and human trafficking in Minnesota's Mall of America
 - For years, people have been quoting and re-quoting that article—and politicians, law enforcement professionals, and even ministry leaders have been using its statistics to warn people about the danger
 - But *Newsweek* was forced within a few months to issue a retraction, since the original article was based on unsubstantiated hearsay from a single, biased source
(in point of fact, *no* arrests—much less convictions—have ever been made for prostitution or human trafficking in the Mall of America)



Our Tongues



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 - But *Newsweek* was forced within a few months to issue a retraction, since the original article was based on unsubstantiated hearsay from a single, biased source
 - But the problem is that *no one cared about the retraction*—people liked the *shared* “reality” of the false story more than they liked the *actual* reality of what really happened
 - The words had taken on a life of their own, and there was no taking them back



Our Tongues



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In August of 2003, *Newsweek* printed an article about prostitution and human trafficking in Minnesota's Mall of America

- For years, people have been quoting and re-quoting that article—and politicians, law enforcement professionals, and even ministry leaders have been using its statistics to warn people about the danger
- But *Newsweek* was forced within a few months to issue a retraction...
- So how much damage has been done to Mall of America's reputation or to the legitimacy of the real dangers of actual human trafficking because of people spreading—and others then *re*-spreading—this demonstrably false information for nearly two decades?
- Don't even get me going on “oft-repeated and thus believed” stories about “Bloody Mary” appearing in bathroom mirrors or an angry John Wayne being held back by six stagehands at the Academy Awards...



Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
 - Think about a couple of familiar aphorisms—
 - “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”
 - “A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over.” (*Ben Franklin*)
 - Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
 - Can you think of any Bible verses that would suggest that sort of thing?

“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.”

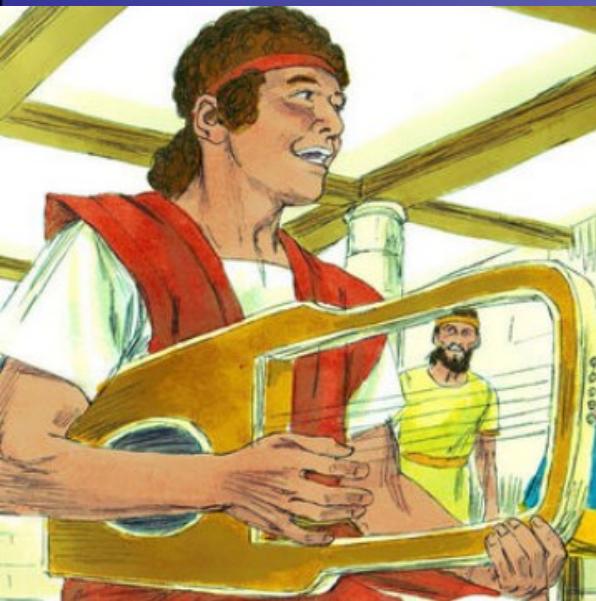
(James 3:5)

- What is James trying to get at here?
- Do you agree? Why or why not?
- How carefully do you and I watch our words, then, if they're really that powerful?



Our Tongues

- Let's look at some Biblical texts on our tongues (and our words)—the good *and* bad
 - Please read Psalm 16:7-9
 - How does hearing from the LORD lead David to set his focus on the LORD and change his perceptions?
 - And then how does that change in perception affect his mental well-being?
 - And how does David then naturally express that mental well-being?
 - How did the prophet Isaiah say something similar back in Isaiah 50:4?
 - What does that suggest that—if we really do think that we *know* stuff—we should use our tongues and words?



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 - And how does David then naturally express that mental well-being?
 - How did the prophet Isaiah say something similar back in Isaiah 50:4?
 - How does Jesus express that concept—both positively and negatively—in Luke 6:43?
 - How does Jesus apply that more fully—both positively and negatively—in Matthew 12:35-37?
 - If all of this is **True**, then how should we apply it?

