James 3

vs 1. Why would teachers be judged more strictly than others?

Teacher was comparable to Rabbi, which means 'great one'. We see what a danger it was to the Pharisee in that the respect made them pompous tyrants. The New Testament gives examples of teachers who spoke to please, who combined doctrine with worldly philosophy, and some who tried to make their own disciples. Teaching should implant the teachers relationship with Christ into the students. That is a very sobering responsibility. vs 2. Here is the real danger of teaching. Do you agree with this inference that if the tongue is kept in check the whole body can be under control? Why?

vs 3-5 What do the analogies say?_____

vs 6 Here is the source of gossip and slander. Hell! When you consider the fruit you will agree with James. Romans 6:13

vs 7,8 God gave man dominion over the animal kingdom but even though we may tame a lion or elephant, we cannot control this little member of our bodies. I think the idea here is that intense discipline is required to tame this beast.

vs 9-12 The mouth of the hypocrite turns people from God. How common, but how utterly detestable. We can sing praises to God and extol him and not long after murder some ones reputation with careless words. Psalm 141:3

vs 13,14 James jumps back to the problem of being a teacher (or was this the subject all along?) and the root of why a tongue would go astray, bitter envy and selfish ambition. What an opposite to a desire to serve. The serpent is subtle!

vs 17,18 What is the source of this wisdom?

What is it's fruit/byproduct?_____