

## Taming the Tongue

**“For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” Matthew 12:34**



Controlling our tongue is harder than controlling any of our body parts. Our tongue is like a sharpened double-sided sword. Whichever way it turns it can do great destruction. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. We often use this weapon from the beginning till the end to destroy someone intentionally or unintentionally. What we think of as small little comment can actually do a bit of havoc with someone else.

Our tongue can destroy what we love. Our tongue can get us into many problems. Our tongue can embarrass us greatly. Our tongue shapes our character and provides a method for others to view us. Unfortunately very few people learn to control their tongues even though we have learned to control many things of this world including various animals.

Moreover the true condition of our heart is coming through our tongue. So if our heart is full of evil it will be reflected in our tongue. As Jesus said “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34).

The bible verses given below explain us how our tongue can cause great destruction.

“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 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. 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. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.” (James 3:1-11)

“Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:26-27)

Tongue and spirituality have inverse relationship. If one goes up, automatically the other will go down. We do not want our spirituality to go down. So the only option to go down is our tongue. As we read above if we do not know how to control our tongue our religious beliefs are useless no matter how holiest we are.

Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues. (Proverbs 10:19)

– Leenus Rich



## Thanksgiving

**“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” - 1 Thess 5:16-18**

November is here, and that means that Thanksgiving Day is just around the corner. So what are we thankful for this year? Hopefully for the many gifts and blessings that we received. God wants us to thank Him for all the good things in our lives. Everyone knows this. However, God expects us to thank Him in all circumstance. That means even in bad times. Is it possible to give thanks in the loss of our loved ones, or job or house or in our sickness? No, it is very difficult for an ordinary person. But it is possible for someone who is very close to God. Job was abundantly blessed by God. One dreadful day, he lost all his children. He lost everything, even his health. He could have complained to God bitterly. But he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” (Job 1:21) This was possible for Job because he loved God very much and his faith was strong. Our Lord Jesus Christ shared his last meal with his disciples. His heart was heavy with the suffering he had to face. Yet he took the cup, gave thanks and shared it with his disciples. He also took the bread, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples. (Lk. 22:17,19) This was possible for Jesus

because He was one with His Father. So when we are with God, we can be joyful, pray continuously, and give thanks in all circumstance.

**Jesus said in reply, “Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine?( Lk 17:17).**

All ten of the lepers were healed by Jesus ‘physically’ a partial healing; a temporary blessing for their time on this earth. But the one leper who came to thank Jesus, personally received more for his “faith”, for not only was he cured physically, he was cured spiritually; his soul was saved. He received an eternal blessing. What did he do to earn this eternal blessing? He simply gave thanks to Jesus for his healing.

King David set us an excellent example of how we should praise and thank our God. He was thankful and always admonishing others to be as well. The Psalms of David are full of praise and thanksgiving. Let us thank God like King David not just once a year during ‘thanksgiving’ but daily.

**Let us come before him with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms.(Ps 95:2)**

- Agnes P. Raj

## Upcoming Events

# Dec 2012

Dec 1 - Sports Day (12:00 pm to 4:00 pm)

Dec 8 - Holy Mass (6:45 pm)

Dec 21, 22, 23 - Caroling (TBD)

Dec 24 - Christmas Mass (6:30 pm)

Dec 31 - New Year Mass (11:45 pm)

## Saint of the Month

St. Andrew, like his brother, Simon Peter, was a fisherman. He became a disciple of St. John the Baptist. However, when John pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God," Andrew understood that Jesus was greater. At once he left John to follow the Divine Master. Jesus knew that Andrew was walking behind him. Turning back, he asked, "What do you seek?" Andrew answered that he would like to know where Jesus dwelt. Our Lord replied, "Come and see." Andrew had been with Jesus only a little while when he realized that this was truly the Messiah. From then on, he decided to follow Jesus. He became the first disciple of Christ.

Next Andrew brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. The Lord received him, too, as his disciple. At first the two brothers continued to carry on their fishing trade and family affairs. Later, the Lord called them to stay with him all the time. He promised to make them fishers of men, and this time they left their nets for good. It is believed that after Our Lord ascended into heaven, St. Andrew preached the Gospel in Greece. He is said to have been put to death on a cross, to which he was tied, not nailed. He lived two days in that state of suffering. Andrew still found enough strength to preach to the people who gathered around their beloved apostle. He is the patron saint of Scotland, Russia, Romania and Ukraine.

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle was the first and the highest order of chivalry of the Russian Empire.



Abolished under the USSR, it was re-established as the top Russian Order in 1998. The Order of St. Andrew is awarded to prominent statesmen and public figures, eminent representatives of science, culture, the arts and various industries for exceptional services, for promoting the prosperity, grandeur and glory of Russia.

According to legend, Saint Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, was crucified on an X-shaped cross at Patras. Use of the familiar iconography of his martyrdom, showing the apostle bound to an X-shaped cross, first appears in the Kingdom of Scotland in 1180 during the reign of William I. This image was again depicted on seals used during the late 13th century. It is also included on one particular example used by the Guardians of Scotland. Scotland's flag depicts white St. Andrew's cross on a blue background.

We celebrate St. Andrew's memorial on the 30th of November. Let us ask him to help us to learn the lesson of the Cross and to carry our daily crosses without complaint so that they may carry us to Jesus.

- Joe Natar

### WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Writing for the newsletter is a rewarding way to contribute to our BATCC community. Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest directly to BATCC Board ([board@tamilcatholic.org](mailto:board@tamilcatholic.org)). Personal transitions like marriages, babies, awards, college admissions, etc. are also welcomed. Accompanying digital photos and other artwork are strongly encouraged. All articles, transitions and photos are subject to editing, available space, and the acceptance policy.



**INDIAN-FUSION DANCE ACADEMY**

**4030 LOUVRE AVENUE**

**SAN JOSE CA 95135**

**408-238-4034**

[admin@indian-fusiondance.com](mailto:admin@indian-fusiondance.com)