



The Power of Words

James 3:1-12

V. 1 – “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

V. 2 – “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.”

THE IMPACT OF WORDS

1. _____ but _____ **James 3:3-4**

V. 3 – “When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.”

V. 4 – “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.”



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2. _____ but _____ James 3:5-6

VS. 5-6 - "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."

"Cruel words have wrecked homes, broken friendships, divided churches and sent untold millions to ruin and despair."

- Dr. Henrietta Mears

"This means that both the bit and the rudder must be under the control of a strong hand. The expert horseman keeps the mighty power of his steed under control, and the experienced pilot courageously steers the ship through the storm. When Jesus Christ controls the tongue, then we need not fear saying the wrong things - or even saying the right things in a wrong way! When Jesus Christ is the Lord of the heart, then He is Lord of the lips too."

- Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe, Commentary on James

3. _____ to _____ James 3:7-8

VS. 7-8 - "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.**"

4. _____ or _____ James 3:9-10

VS. 9-10 - "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."

5. _____ what's _____ James 3:11-12

VS. 11-12 - "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."

THE ROOT PROBLEM:

A _____ PROBLEM

"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." MATTHEW 12:34

TAKING A SPIRITUAL EKG

WORDS	HEART
Harsh	Angry
Negative	Filled with Doubt
Overactive	Unsettled
Depressing	Discouraged
Critical	Judgmental/Bitter
Unfriendly	Hard
Boasting	Insecure
Filthy	Impure
Encouraging	Happy
Gentle	Loving
Soothing	Peaceful

THE ONLY REAL SOLUTION:

A _____ HEART

"Create in me a clean heart, O God." PSALM 51:10