

What Words Can Do

James 3:1-12

- I. **Warning to those who teach (James 3:1-2)**
 - A. Teachers have a heavier responsibility before God because they talk more (3:2).
 - Responsible to live the truth they teach
 - Responsible to teach truth accurately
 - Responsible for spiritually influencing others
 - B. Teachers sin too, but the wise use of words indicates maturity in other areas (3:2).
- II. **Our words are extremely powerful (James 3:3-4)**
 - A. Words are like a small bit that controls a large horse.
 - B. Words are like a small rudder that controls a large ship.
 - C. Point: How we talk has a great impact on others.
- III. **Our words can be extremely destructive (James 3:5-8).**
 - A. Point: Words can be devastating.
 - B. Words are like a spark that starts a forest fire.
 - C. Words are like a poisonous bite of a wild animal.
- IV. **We control our words by controlling our heart (James 3:9-12; Matthew 15:17-19).**
 - Sometimes our words can praise God but then speak against a fellow believer (9-10).
 - Our words reveal the condition of our heart like water from a spring or fruit from a tree (11-12).