



**Speaking Well
(James 3:1-12)**

A Word about Teachers (James 3:1)

- Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Words in Check (James 3:2-5a)

- 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.
- 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, *we guide their whole bodies as well.*
- 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.
- 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

Words on Fire (James 3:5b-8)

- How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!
- 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire *course of life* [or “wheel of birth”], and set on fire by hell [or “Gehenna”].
- 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,
- 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Words in Conflict

(James 3:9-12)

- 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.
- 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, [or “brothers and sisters”] these things ought not to be so.
- 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?
- 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers [or “brothers and sisters”], bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Words Used Well

- (See the highlighted words in the passage)

Takeaways:

1. Be on guard to avoid using speech in destructive ways
2. Use your speech to praise the Lord
3. Use your speech to lift people up

Let Us Pray

