

# Be Real

## *Be Real With Your Words*

**James 3:2-12** 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.

<sup>3</sup> When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. <sup>11</sup> Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup> My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. (NIV)

### 1. Our words reveal our hearts.

**James 1:26** Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. (NIV)

**Matthew 12:34** For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (ESV)

**Matthew 12:34** For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. (NIV)

### 2. Our words are powerful.

**Proverbs 18:21** The tongue has the power of life and death, (NIV)

#### A. Our words have the power to build others up.

**James 3:3** When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. (NIV)

**James 3:4** 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. (NIV)

**B. Our words can take us places.**

**Proverbs 13:3** Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin. (NIV)

**C. Our words can be destructive.**

**James 3:5-6** Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup> 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. (NIV)

**Proverbs 11:12** Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. (NIV)

**Proverbs 12:18** The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (NIV)

**3. Our words are untamable in our own strength.**

**James 3:7-8** All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (NIV)

**Matthew 12:35-37** A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. <sup>36</sup> But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (NIV)

**Psalms 141:3** Help me Lord to keep my mouth shut and my lips sealed. (TLB)

**Psalms 19:14** May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight oh Lord my rock and my redeemer. (NIV)