



Words Matter

James 3:1-12

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue....” (Prov. 18:21)

1) We're _____ to _____ for our _____.

(v. 1)

“But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.” (Matt. 12:36)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2 Cor. 5:10, Rom. 14:12)

“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.” (James 3:1)

2) Our words are an _____ of our spiritual _____.

(v. 2)

“If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.” (James 1:26)

“For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.” (James 3:2)

What James says here applies also to the words we...

_____, _____, _____, and _____!

3) Our words have _____ incredible

_____. (vv. 3-5)

- Like a small _____ controls a powerful _____ (v. 3)
- Like an unseen _____ steers a giant _____ (v. 4)
- Like a tiny _____ ignites a huge _____ (v. 5)

That power can be used for _____.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” (Eph. 4:29, NIV, see Col. 4:6)

- words of _____
- words of _____
- words of _____

4) Our words have potential for _____.

(vv. 6-8)

- Like an uncontrolled _____ that _____ (v. 6)
- Like an untamed _____ that _____ (vv. 7-8a)
- Like an unsuspected _____ that _____ (v. 8b)

5) The _____ with our words goes _____ than our _____.

As the _____ of a fountain reveal the nature of the _____ (v. 11), . . .

☞ and as the _____ of a tree reveals the nature of the _____ (v. 12) . . .

☞ so the _____ of our mouth reveal the condition of our _____.

“For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.” (Luke 6:44-45, see Matt. 15:18)

“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” (Prov. 4:23)

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.” (Ps. 19:14)

“Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth. Keep watch over the door of my lips.” (Ps. 141:3)