

Title: Talk is NOT cheap.

Text: James 3:1-12

Target: Spiritual maturity isn't just measured by what you believe, but by how you speak.

I. Be Accountable for What You Say (Vs. 1–2)

- A. Take Consideration:** *“Not many of you should become teachers,”* (Vs. 1a)
- B. Take Responsibility:** *“we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.”* (Vs. 1b)
- C. Take Inventory:** *“For we all stumble in many ways.”* (Vs. 2)

II. Be Attentive to Where Your Words Lead (Vs. 3–5a)

- A. The Bit That Directs:** *“If we put bits into the mouths of horses so they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.”* (Vs. 3)
- B. The Rudder That Redirects:** *“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.”* (Vs. 4)

III. Be Alarmed by What Your Words Destroy (Vs. 5b–8)

- A. A Fire That Destroys:** *“How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!”* (Vs. 5b–6)
- B. An Animal You Can’t Tame:** *“Every kind of beast and bird... can be tamed... but no human being can tame the tongue.”* (Vs. 7–8)
- C. A Poison That’s Deadly:** *“A restless evil, full of deadly poison.”* (Vs. 8)

IV. Be Aware of What Your Words Reveal (vs. 9–12)

- A. Reveal Contradiction:** *“With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people”* (Vs. 9–10)
- B. Reveal the Source:** *“Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?”* (Vs. 11)
- C. Reveal the Fruit:** *“Can a fig tree... bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs?”* (Vs. 12)

Takeaway: Words don’t just come out of you; they reveal what’s inside of you.