

TITLE: James (Lesson 16)

TEXT: James 3:1-4

INTRO: "Controlling our speech is not optional; it's essential. It is evidence of whether we're really saved. Remember, that's the theme of the book of James: If you have genuine faith, there's going to be genuine fruit in your life. And part of that fruit is the ability to control your speech."
Pastor Robert Jeffress

- I. (vs. 1) Be careful if you are a teacher.
 - A. Beware of your motivation.

NOTE: Matt. 23:5-12

- B. Remember the importance of words.

NOTE: Matt. 12:34-37

- C. We are responsible to speak the truth.

NOTE: "It's foolish to think you can speak on God's behalf and not place yourself under His judgment." *Pastor Robert Jeffress*

- D. We are responsible to live what we teach.

NOTE: Matt. 7:2; Rom. 2:1-3

- E. We are subject to a stricter judgment.

NOTE: Matt. 5:19

- II. (vs. 2) Every Christian is responsible to control the tongue.

NOTE: Ps. 39:1; 141:3; James 1:26

- A. We are all prone to make mistakes, to sin and to fail.

NOTE: Eph. 4:11-15

- B. However our words demonstrate the depth of our Christian maturity.

NOTE: James 1:19

- 1. Just as our works reveal the reality of our faith.

- III. (vs. 3-4) The power of the tongue to direct our lives.

- A. (vs. 3) The example of a horse.

- 1. The purpose of the bit is for the horse to obey the rider.

NOTE: Ps. 32:8-11

- 2. The horse is big in comparison to the bit.

NOTE: A horse can weigh up to nine to twelve hundred pounds.

- B. (vs. 4) The example of a ship.

- 1. Not only are they large but they also combat the wind and waves.

- 2. And yet they are controlled "with a very small helm".

NOTE: Though small the tongue is powerful for its size. Prov. 10:19; 12:22; 15:1; 18:21

- 3. A rudder not controlled properly can result in destruction.

NOTE: Examples of the *Bismarck* and the *Titanic*. It has been estimated the average person speaks about thirty thousand words every day. They are used for gossiping, belittling, cursing, bragging, manipulating, false teaching, exaggerating, complaining, flattering, and lying and God records it all.