

10/8/23

The Stuff That Matters: My Words

James 3:1-12

- **WORDS, TONE & TIMING** matter
- **DIRECT, HONEST & KIND** matter

A. My words **DIRECT** my life.

"We can make a large horse turn around and go wherever we want by means of a small bit in his mouth ..."
James 3:3 (LB)

B. My words can **DESTROY** all I care about.

"...The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A great forest can be set on fire by one tiny spark. And the tongue is a flame of fire..." James 3:5-6 (LB)

C. My words **DISPLAY** who I really am.

"Can you pick olives from a fig tree, or figs from a grape vine? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty pool!" James 3:12 (LB)

A Few Scriptures to Memorize:

*"Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies."
Psalm 34:13 (NIV)*

*"Set a guard over my mouth, Lord;
keep watch over the door of my lips."
Psalm 141:3 (NIV)*

*"Too much talk leads to sin.
Be sensible and keep your mouth shut."
Proverbs 10:19 (NLT)*

*"The mouth speaks what the heart is full of."
Luke 6:45b (NIV)*

Keep the conversation going...

1. What image would you use to describe the power of your words?
2. In what ways have you witnessed how powerful your words are?
3. Read Luke 6:45. Why is it so important to be intentional not only with *what* we say but also with *how* we say it?
4. How does what we say, reveal what's really in our hearts?