

# WORD PICTURES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR SPEECH

## *James 3:2-12*

In James 3, several word pictures are used to show the importance of mature speech.

|          |                                                         |                                                            |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bit      | A small bit controls a large animal.                    | Can we control our use of the tongue?                      |
| Rudder   | A small piece of wood steers a huge ship in heavy wind. | The tongue, though small, can create grave consequences.   |
| Fire     | A small spark unleashes a destructive force.            | Do we recognize the destructive force our words can have?  |
| Animals  | People can tame animals.                                | Can we tame our speech and our impulsive thoughts?         |
| Poison   | The venom of a snake kills its prey.                    | Can we keep our words from poisoning us and others?        |
| Spring   | A spring can produce only one kind of water.            | Is our speech a spring that is good or foul?               |
| Fig Tree | A tree bears just one kind of fruit.                    | Is our speech bearing good fruit, or is it mixed with bad? |
| Tongue   | The tongue can be used for good or evil.                | Does our speech reflect our Christian maturity?            |