

# Words That Defile

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## Scripture

- **James 3:2-10**

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. Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. So also, the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

- **Proverbs 10:19**

When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

- **Matthew 12:36-37**

But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgement. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

- **Philippians 4:8-9**

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything, worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- **Matthew 7:2**

For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

## Other Scriptures

- Matthew 12:26
- Romans 10:9
- Matthew 21:21
- James 3:9-10
- Jeremiah 17:9

## Main Points

- Words that defile:
  - The abundance of words/talking too much
    - If we want to have power in our lives, we need to control our words.
    - Learn to be wise with your words.
  - Careless words
    - Careless words will bring destruction into your life and into the lives of others.
  - Negative and complaining words
    - Your life trajectory is going to be determined by what you release from your mouth.
  - Words through which we can criticize or judge others
    - What comes out of our mouth will determine the direction of our life.

## Discussion Questions

1. Rabbi mentioned two large objects whose trajectories are determined by one little part of each. Write about these two things. How do these small parts create big results? How does this relate to the tongue and our spiritual walk?
2. What are the 4 kinds of words that defile us? What opposite terms would be words that would honor God?
3. Rabbi shared a number of Scripture verses today that relate to our speech. If you will obey in this area, what positive things can happen to you?
4. What defiling words most hinder your walk with the Lord? Ask God to give you rule over your tongue today.