**Part 5 – You Asked for It**

**Does what I say matter?**

**Does what I say matter?**

**True or False?**

·      **I should say whatever I want, whenever I want, to whomever I want.**

·       **If I want to have great friends, I should verbally abuse them.**

·       **What I have to say is way more important than people’s feelings.**

·       **My words have nothing to do with my faith and relationship with God.**

·      **The things I say in private won’t affect my relationships or the health of my church family.**

·      **What I say doesn’t have to be true; it just has to sound true.**

·       **The words I say now won’t affect my future.**

·      **The words I say about myself don’t matter.**

**My words matter because they tell people who I am and shape the future.**

**James 3:1-12**

**Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.**

**Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.**

**We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.**

**But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.**

**People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.**

**Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!**

**Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can’t draw fresh water from a salty spring.**

**Why does what I say matter?**

**My words tell people my heart.**

**Matthew 12:33-37**

**“A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad.**

**You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say.**

**A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.**

**And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.”**

**My words tell people I belong to Jesus.**

**Romans 10:9**

**If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**My words bring life or death to others.**

**Proverbs 18:21**

**The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.**

**Proverbs 15:4**

**Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.**

**Proverbs 16:28**

**A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.**

**Ephesians 4:29**

**Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.**

**So what should you do?**

**Ask God to tame your tongue.**

**30 Days of God-Honoring Speech.**