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**Date:** Jan. 26, 2025 **Series:** Use it Well: Stewarding God's Many Gifts  
**Message:** Using Words Well **Scripture:** James 3:2-12

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The destructive power of words:

The constructive power of words:

How to change our words:

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

James 3:2-12

1. When have you experienced the power of words, either to create or to destroy? Think both of how you have used words and others have used words toward you. Has someone's words ever shaped you?
2. When have you seen words "create" a new future—either positively or negatively? Examples can include someone's gratitude creating more joy for those around them or someone's constant grumbling/criticism tearing apart a family, church, or team.
3. Have you encountered people who justify their brash/unfiltered use of words as simply "who they are?" How would you counsel such people? What could be damaged if they never think before speaking?
4. Have you encountered people who often seem hesitant to speak? How would you counsel such people? What could we lose if they never speak up?
5. Discuss the balance of encouragement and correction. Are they mutually exclusive? Why or why not?
6. Which one (encouragement or correction) comes more naturally to you? How can you intentionally add the other? What is at stake if you neglect one in favor of the other?
7. In what ways has Jesus' complete unconditional acceptance of you paired with His correction of your errors informed the way you speak? If it hasn't, how could it?