

*The Way We Could Be*  
Choosing Words with Care  
James 3:1-12 (page 1200)

Question: How can we tame our tongue?

I. Understand Its Importance (1-2)

<sup>36</sup> *But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.*" (Mt. 12:36-37)

II. Understand its Power (3-6)

<sup>21</sup> *As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.* (Pr. 26:21)

III. Understand our Inability (7-8)

<sup>5</sup> *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.* (Jn. 15:5)

IV. Understand What it Reveals (9-12)

*For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. <sup>35</sup> A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.* (Mt. 12:34b-35)

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**Points to Ponder:** In Eph. 4:15 we are called to "speak the truth in love" – what might that mean for the words we speak in this day?

**A Note to Parents:** Please know that the children and youth who leave the service during the sermon are looking at the same passage we are considering. We hope that you will initiate a conversation with them about this portion of God's Word.

**Next Week:** Next week is our Mission's Conference. You won't to miss hearing from Rob A. – a man with unique insight into the Muslim world in Asia.

