

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the Lord. (v9)

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through suffering & rejection you bring forth our salvation, & by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, & follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers & sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, & is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast & bird, of reptile & sea creature, can be tamed & has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord & Father, & with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing & cursing. My brothers & sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh & brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers & sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How would you describe a “theme” across the readings? Be specific. *Hint: look for topics, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc. Consider especially Isaiah 50:4; Psalm 116:1-2; James 3:5-10; Mark 8:27-30*
2. Especially in our culture people long to have “influence” over others, to be listened to & followed by others, to be agreed with, to be seen as wise & informed, & the like. What does the New Testament have to say about being a “teacher” of others? *See Matthew 10:24-25, 18:5-7; Luke 6:39-49; John 13:12-17; Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:20-26, 4:2-5; James 3:1-2*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Review 8th Commandment in both the *Small & Large Catechisms**. What stands out to you? How are we to use our words for our neighbor’s benefit? Note: harming another’s reputation is the measure of the Commandment, not whether or not it’s “true.” *Available bookofconcord.org
4. If it’s “true” take it to the proper authority. How would the rule of thumb, “Can this person I’m speaking to solve my problem? If not, keep it to myself.” solve many of our hearsay & chatter problems?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Dave Ramsey’s business (500+ employees) is routinely voted #1 place to work in Nashville & they have a strict No Gossip (*see 8th Commandment*) policy that can result in termination. This proves we *can* work together like this. What would be the pros & cons of such a policy at your employment? In your work group/area? In your home/family? On your social media accounts & texts?
6. What specific steps can you take to implement a strict policy for yourself & your interactions with others? List at least 12 things; *See Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8; SC & LC: 8th Commandment Remember a fire requires oxygen (3:6).*

17th Sunday after Pentecost

09.15.24

Series: Prove It!

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Faith active in love

Proof by Words

The words we speak are to glorify God, rather than harm or insult others

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: From the same mouth come blessing & cursing.
My brothers & sisters, this ought not to be so. (v10)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous,
in order to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:18)

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