

MINISTER'S Message

September 24, 2018

Our Words ...

The Letter of James to the early church offers great wisdom for us today. James was a teacher, and early Christian church leader, who writes to tell people how to live the Christian way.

Much of his epistle is about how what we say can hurt, how words, simple words from that little organ we call the tongue can cause great hurt if misused.

Remember that old playground chant:
"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

Can you get any further from the truth? Ask anyone who has been a childhood victim of verbal bullying; or any adult who has been the victim of workplace gossip or bullying -

names, words, can, and do hurt, when they are used in anger or to belittle or disparage another. They hurt in the moment, and they can leave lasting hurt. In some instances, lasting trauma.

Essentially, what the writer of James offers is wisdom for the ages - that message that our tongue, and our words have power to be blessing and power to be curse.

And in today's world, I think we can extend the idea of the power of the tongue to the power of the fingertips and social media. With the touch of our fingertips on a keyboard, and hitting "post", we have the power to uplift and praise people, or we have the power to hurt and diminish people, in a way that goes so much further than the confines of the schoolyard or the workplace.

As you encounter friend and stranger alike, face to face, or online - be mindful of how your words can be a blessing, or can be hurtful - and that as the body of Christ, we are called to be blessing to the world.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Tammy Allan

Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge of the United Church

Importance of Our Words

Proverbs 18:21

Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it shall eat the fruit of it.

James 3:10

Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

What you say has the power to BLESS or to CURSE