

gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” “Gossips betray a confidence, but the trustworthy keep a secret.” (Prov. 11:13) “To answer before listening – that is folly and shame.” (Prov. 18:13) God has gifted us with his word that we can now speak his life giving word into every situation.

Today James reminds me to reflect on what I say, because I have such a wonderful gift to share, it would be an incredible waste if I didn't speak it. Let's all invite Jesus to lead us with the Holy

Spirit that we make the most of every opportunity he gives that we speak forth his life giving word, so that others come to know and taste the joy of Jesus' life.

Let us pray.
Jesus, thank you for speaking your word of life over my life, over our lives. This week lead us by the Holy Spirit that in all situations we might speak your life giving word. And when we get it wrong help us to speak your life giving words; 'sorry, please forgive me'. Jesus lead us to speak your word of forgiveness this week

freeing people to become all that our Heavenly Father has dreamed possible. Thank you for this wonderful privilege of speaking your word of life into this world of death. Amen.

This week why not read Proverbs this week and jot down which of God's one-liners speak into your life; your marriage, your family, your work.

13 September 2009

JESUS: THE WORD OF LIFE

James 3:1-17



Last week we were reminded that; 'Faith without works is dead.' Now we all know that doesn't mean we are saved by our works. We are saved by faith alone in Jesus; but faith always shapes what we do. And so today James reminds me that my faith will shape what I say.

As a disciple of Jesus I'm called to; 'deny myself, take up my cross and follow Jesus.' (Mark 8:34) That means Jesus shapes all I say and do. Today in James I'm reminded of the importance of what I say. I simply can't say whatever I like, whenever I like, but Jesus needs to shape my words so that they

are always an expression of him. That's my goal as a disciple of Jesus, to become more and more like him in everything I do and say.

The wonderful thing about Jesus is that he is able to speak words of life. In fact he is the word of life. So James reminds me today that if the words I speak destroy people then my faith in Jesus hasn't shaped my words.

Even when Jesus speaks a word of correction it is a word of life, because it always carries the potential of change. In Jesus we always can repent, we can always change and

grow to become all that God our Heavenly Father has dreamed possible for us. Not to speak the truth in love, would mean my faith in Jesus hasn't shaped my words.

Notice Jesus calls us always to speak the truth, but always to speak the truth in love, never as a weapon of revenge, or simply to get something of my chest.

Remember just recently we read in Ephesians; "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only that which is helpful for building others up, according to their needs, that it may

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553
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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

benefit those who listen.” (Eph. 4:29)

When I look at Jesus’ life and the way he speaks it always brings about the life that his Father dreams possible. Jesus speaks words of life.

This reminds me of John chapter one where Jesus is personified as the creative word of God. “Through him all things

were made... In him was life...” (John 1:3,4) In the Genesis account how did God create? He spoke. He spoke and it was

created – Let there be light and there was light.

Jesus is God’s creative word, spoken again that God might create a new people, a new family of God, who would once again be able to reflect his image.

And Jesus is the image of God.

Discipleship lies at the heart of our faith. If I’m not being created into Jesus’ image in my actions and words, then I need to change.

Thank God that in Jesus we have been changed and are daily

Jesus is God’s creative word.

growing to greater maturity that in all we say and do Jesus’ image is being formed.

This is one of the great things about being a disciple of Jesus, now we have the capacity to speak words that bring forth life. You, in Jesus, can speak his life giving word into your daily life.

That’s why I love John 20:21-23 “Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgive,

if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’” Jesus here has spoken his creative word

over us his disciples and empowered each of us to speak his life giving word. What a wonderful privilege.

Do you know anyone in need of a life giving word? A word of real hope and not just wishful thinking. A word of love, not just empty sentiment. A word that brings change into a situation that looks unchangeable. Jesus has spoken his life

giving word over us that we might now be his agents of life in this world of death. That is the power our words bear in Jesus.

When Jesus encountered people possessed by an evil spirit he was able to speak his authoritative, life giving word and set the person free. The Gospels are full of stories where Jesus

speaks and people are set free. He has given us that same life giving word to speak and set people free to be all that our Heavenly Father has dreamed possible.

Jesus also spoke many words of wisdom, so that people knew how to live with God. We have his parables, the Sermon on the Mount, his discussions with the

Pharisees, all so that we can now speak his word of wisdom into our lives and into the lives of those we live, work and play with. Not to lecture them, but to share Jesus’ life giving word that they too might reap the fullness of life that Jesus has come

Speak words of life.

to offer. What a wonderful gift we have to give. We have God’s words of wisdom. Wisdom is about living life well. Knowing how to make decisions that lead to life and not death.

Adam and Eve made a decision that lead to death because they listened to a lie. Lies don’t have life in them, Jesus’ word does, and we have the

privilege and joy to be able to speak his word, that people’s choices reap life, the life that Jesus’ brings. Cause Jesus is all about life.

That’s one reason we have the book of Proverbs, so that we know God’s wisdom for life and are equipped to make choices that lead to life. There God speaks his life giving word. I

always enjoy reading through Proverbs. What treasures for life we have been gifted with. What a privilege to speak those short phrases into people’s lives empowering them to be able to make decisions that build the life Jesus gave his life for us all to enjoy.

How and what we say can produce life; Proverbs 15:1 “A