

Provided by Kirsti Logan:

Hey family! Sorry my notes are a day late. Today was crazy with Focus on the Family's grand opening of their new community coffee space! I ran into a couple familiar faces!

Anywho, I hope everyone's Monday was glorious. Here's a quick recap of the sermon from yesterday. Thank you Pastor Patrick for being a wonderful conduit for the Lord to speak through you! I know your willingness to be used by our God has impacted my walk, and I'm sure it has others.

This week we dove deep in James. A letter to a scattered people throughout the land of Jerusalem. A people who have lost focus on the mission at hand.

We've been wrestling through this topic of believing vs living. What does it look like to not only believe the good word, but to walk it out?

Theology - who God is

Identity - Who you are

Activity - What you do

We have this understanding of who our creator is and this identity of who we are in Him but how do we show it to the world?

So Pastor Patrick spoke about controlling your tongue.

James 1:26 states, "If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless."

Our religion is worthless. Worthless. That's tough. But the following verse hit me when I read it after the fact. "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the father means caring for the orphans and the widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you."

An interesting quandary when we think about hateful speech and a sharp tongue. The tongue of a believer walking with the Lord and living out the love of Jesus by caring for the alien, the orphan and the widow. A true act of selflessness.

Pastor Patrick goes on to discuss the teacher and how teachers are always judged more strictly. Why? Because of the influence a teacher has over a student. That influence to build up or break down. It's all a matter of speech.

Jesus spoke with such authority even the Pharisees were baffled by how much knowledge he had from the text. His words reflected love yet truth.

Proverbs 10:19 states, "Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut."

We have the power.

James 3:2-5 states, "Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth."

And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.”

It’s refreshing to know that we will never say the perfect thing. We will never have the perfect word. We can rest in the knowledge that when we rest in the Lord we can be used by Him. We don’t have to know what to say at all times. We just have to be willing to allow the Spirit to move in us.

Proverbs 18:21 states “The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.”

Are we walking in life or death?

But we must look to the source of the issue.

Matthew 12:35 states “A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.”

Where does your heart lie?

Psalm 19:14 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

With pure hearts come loving speech. So what is needed?

1. Filter what we allow in our heart.
2. Filter what we allow out of our mouth.

Is there something in your heart not allowing you to rest? Has it caused conflict in your life?

Pause. Pray. Allow the Spirit to lead.

Ephesians 4:29 “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

We have the power to build up OR break down. How do we want to show our love?

Healing words bring life. Remove the complaining, the boasting, the gossip and the criticizing. Replace with love. Encouragement. Edification. Empowerment.

Be life giving. How can we do that in our everyday walk?

How can we lift up, not tear down?

How do we love well in truth?

Thanks! Have a great week!!