



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 12, 2020

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Words Matter

We have so many ways in which we use our words. We have the spoken word. We have the written word. We have the texted word. We have the emailed word. We have the posted word. Thankfully, we have the Inspired Word!

James 1:19-20 is clear when it comes to how we are to respond to anyone in any given situation. *“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”* Communication can be difficult at times. Let us remember, our transmissions during conversations can be uplifting or undermining!

Anytime we don't choose our words wisely, we may allow ourselves to be drawn into conversations that do not produce positive outcomes. Angry words taste bitter for a long time. The song we sing by the same title gently reminds us to be careful in the first line: “Angry words, oh, let them never from the tongue unbridled slip; may the heart's best impulse ever check them ere they soil the lip.”

While “communication” looks vastly different in terms of how we communicate (by phone, digitally), we must never let someone else choose how we respond. Jamy Bechler says “The minute you get personal or mean-spirited with your argument, you've lost. Too many arguments are based on emotion and not logic. In fact, there are too many arguments and not enough conversations.”

We are tempted to maybe say things we shouldn't without first considering our thoughts. Let us follow the words of Jesus as He was tempted. *“But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).* **Allen Jones**

The Destructive Nature of Selfishness

“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:3-4).

Two locations are widely recognized as the most likely spots for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. One, the most likely to be historically accurate, is overrun with people and trinkets and decorations. The other, the one scholars deem less likely to be the actual place, is much less adorned and is painstakingly preserved to look much like it may have looked centuries ago.

While it may not be the tomb Christ was buried in, it sure looks the part. The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem is beautiful. It is one of those places that bears qualities that are difficult to describe. It certainly has a unique “feel” to it. It is serene. It is old. There is a great effort to keep it looking “just so.”

It was here we found a sign imploring the tourists and guests not to take any flowers or rocks from the site. Additionally, they asked that nothing (no notes containing prayers or any other objects) be left behind. Evidently, this is a problem! So many had plucked flowers the garden had suffered. So many had pocketed a few rocks the garden had suffered.

As I reflected on the need for such a sign, I suddenly realized that I often act selfishly without even thinking about it. It is tempting to pick up and take items from historical places. Who wouldn't want a free souvenir from a place that is meaningful and significant?

But, in a setting such as that, to take something for myself is to potentially deprive someone else of the beauty and joy they deserve to experience. To take something from the garden, even if small, would be destructive. Thus, I was reminded of the nature of selfishness – it is destructive.

Selfishness destroys souls. When I think only of myself, I miss out on the most rewarding and fulfilling life of service and love. My own soul decays and shrivels as I hoard and ignore the needs and value of others.

Selfishness destroys relationships. When I take and take and take, I leave others in need. Who wants to build a relationship with that type of person?

To be selfish takes away from and distorts God's plan for mankind.

Being selfish leaves us empty and alone.

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice” (James 3:16).

Bart Warren