

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

Words matter.

Our words matter.

Do your words build others up ... or ... do your words tear others down?

Rather than relying on your own strength to control your tongue,
will you ask and will you allow the Holy Spirit to help you?

Will you look this week for someone who needs words of encouragement?

Will you be the difference in his or her life this week?

* BENEDICTION

* *Pass It On*

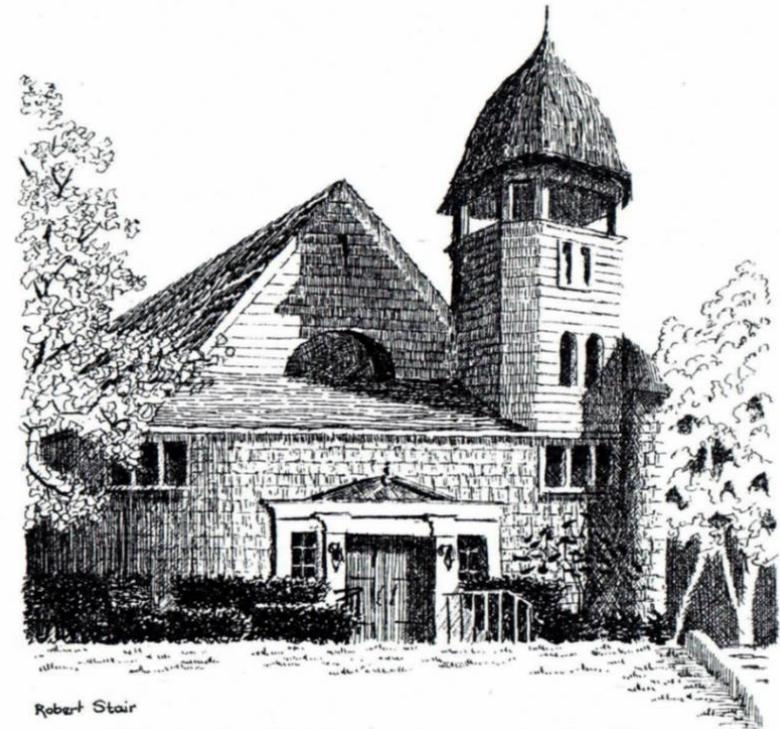
572 (verses 1, 3)

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Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



**He had worked with some ferocious
beasts, but never had he tried
to tame a tongue.**



DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

**If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say,
they mislead themselves.
Their devotion is worthless.**

(James 1:26)

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE ... **A TIME TO FOCUS OUR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS ON KING JESUS**

OPENING PRAYER:

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come here today not because we are clever
but because God welcomes the slow learners.

**We come here not because we are wise,
but because God loves us in spite of our folly.**

We come knowing that the greatest persons will be found
among those who humbly serve like Jesus did,
and that the brightest ideas and the deepest truth will come
from those who see themselves as little children in Christ's school.

**O Lord, open up our minds and our hearts
and enable our lives to declare your praise.**

* *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

57

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CORPORATE CONFESSION & MOMENTS OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION:

**Lord we are made in your likeness,
but we keep falling because our tongues get in the way.**

We know right from wrong, but sometimes our tongues get the best of us.

**Lord we are made in your likeness,
but sometimes our tongues start arguments and ignite fires that not even the firefighters can extinguish.
Our tongues, these swords of fire, have become instruments of life and death,
but we don't want to keep living this way.**

GOD'S WORD:

Mark 8:27-38 ... James 3:1-12

(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... The People respond: "Thanks BE to God")

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **"THE TONGUE PROBLEM ... IS IT A BRAIN OR A HEART PROBLEM OR BOTH?"**

A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you, or set aside for you.

Praised for you, or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God,

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

you are mine, and I am yours.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

let it also be made in Heaven.

Amen.

* *Jesus Loves Me*

191 (verse 1)

* PRAYER FOR OFFERING OUR LIVES, OUR TITHES, AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD:

**God, we hear, and we respond to your words of wisdom,
your words of call and life.**

May these gifts,

not only of our money,

but of our very selves —

our words, our thoughts, our actions —

be acceptable to you,

and help spread your words of life and love.

Amen.

**Lord we are made in your likeness,
we are your children, and we need you.
Please help us control tongues
because we praise you and curse our brothers and sisters with the same tongue.
And this should not be.
Forgive us and continue to remind us O Lord,
that we are made in your likeness.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PARDON

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

* *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

Jesus loves the little children,
ALL the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the children of the world.

MOMENTS WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Where Children Belong

2233 (sing twice)

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER:

(Ecumenical Text)

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.
AMEN.**

* *Baptized in Water*

2248

CELEBRATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

(on insert)

THEODORE WILLIAM BARNES

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

611 (tune # 398 – Jesus Calls Us)