



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

22 September 2024

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P.O. BOX 3315 WEST

James 3:13–4:3, 7-8a (NLT)

True Wisdom Comes from God

¹³ If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honourable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

¹⁴ But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.

¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

¹⁷ **But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.**

¹⁸ **And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.**

Drawing Close to God

⁴ What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?

² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Singing Group - West Tamworth

2nd & 4th Monday 10am

Followed by a cuppa and a chat.....



Mark 9:30-37 (NLT)

Jesus Again Predicts His Death

³⁰ Leaving that region, they travelled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there,

³¹ for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead."

³² They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

The Greatest in the Kingdom

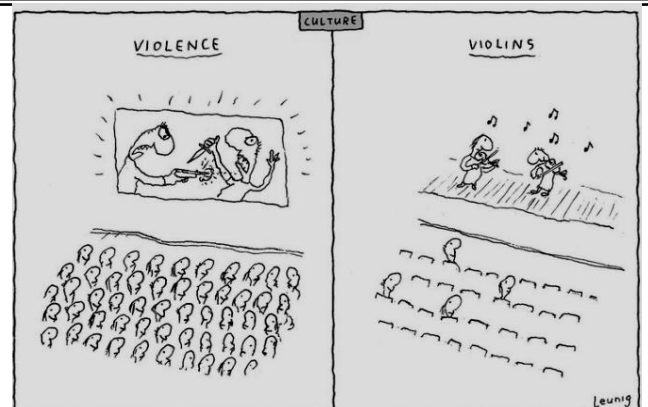
³³ After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?"

³⁴ But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."

³⁶ Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them,

³⁷ "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for safe travels for Rev Geoff and Sharon.
- We give thanks that Beulah's strength and mobility are slowly improving.
- We pray for hay-fever sufferers.
- We pray for Kelvin Harrow, who has terminal cancer.
- We pray for a world full of violence - wars, conflicts, and assassination attempts

Meg's Musings



This week there has been a second assassination attempt on Donald Trump.

His response is to blame Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Such thinking is a sad indictment on our world. So often, when things go wrong, people look around for someone else to blame.

That seems to be a trait of "earthly" wisdom, mentioned in this week's reading from James. "Heavenly" wisdom seeks a peaceful and gentle path. Does peace and gentleness govern your thoughts and actions?

Blessings from Meg

Other Lectionary Readings:

Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalms 1



CHURCH SERVICES

29 September

11am **West Tamworth** ~ Meg Mangan



Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

The world has become a place where entertainers and professional athletes are mistaken for people of importance.

I've needed a doctor.

I've needed a teacher.

I need farmers every day.

I need truck drivers every day.

I have needed a car mechanic, a plumber, a house painter and a lot of other everyday people.

But I have never, not even once, needed a pro-athlete, a media personality or a Hollywood celebrity for anything...

Especially moral or political advice. ~ unknown

Words from Rev Sam Sadrata

We are on the road again headed to Jerusalem teaching and preparing the disciples for what lays ahead, yet Jesus still did not want anyone to know. However, this time around, he tells them exactly what lies ahead. It is interesting here in the Mark's account that whenever Jesus talks about his suffering ahead of time, it all happens in the third person... "he" "Son of Man" etc. Scholars have dubbed this as the 'Messianic Secret' and I wonder if the reason was because Christ was uncomfortable talking about it in a direct way. A short way of removing the extra stress that he will be the victim.

One of the most amazing things about the gospels, especially Mark, is that they do not hesitate to present the disciples as clueless. These men are later to be apostles, sent out by Jesus to proclaim the gospel. They held places of honour and respect, and several of them died as martyrs. If the gospels were written to impress, the disciples would certainly have been presented in a different light.

Mark says that they didn't understand what Jesus was saying, but they also didn't dare to ask him any questions about it. Does that sound familiar? Ever been in a situation in which a discussion was going on that was over your head, but you didn't dare to ask what it was all about? They all wanted to look like good students to Jesus.

As they are walking along, they begin to argue about who is the greatest. Which one is really Jesus' right-hand man? Which one stands out as the most worthy and devoted disciple? The saying, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." That is decidedly not the way things work in the world. People do not get ahead by making sure they are last in line. People do not rise to the top of the heap by making sure they have served everyone else first. This is not an answer about human wisdom, it's an answer about the Kingdom of God.

However, many times we may have heard that statement, it's impossible not to find it impractical and perhaps even offensive. Things just don't work that way in the real world. It's a way for being left behind and taken advantage of. So, taking the last place and being a servant of all is not being a coward. It has more to do with strength than weakness. The attitude of servanthood is the mark of a person who knows who he or she is. Such a person is not ignorant of their worth but knows their true worth. It comes from the heart of a person who knows she is loved and valued, who is deeply aware of his identity. The more we become identified with Jesus Christ and sure of God's love, the more we will be able to drop the claim of greatness and assume the role of servanthood.

Jesus was not a guru for modern corporate leadership theory, but it's interesting how his concept of servanthood has been picked up in some leadership circles. Servant leaders lead by putting others ahead of themselves. Their authority is the byproduct of their love for others. Others follow them because they know that in doing so, they will not be abused or abandoned, but because they know their welfare, success, and wellbeing are the focus of their leader's concern.

Reverend Samuela Sadrata



**THE VIRTUE OF PRIVATE GOOD DEEDS:
WHY SOME ACTS DESERVE SILENCE**

In a world where social media often serves as a platform for showcasing every aspect of our lives, the concept of keeping good deeds private may seem outdated or even counterintuitive.

However, there is immense value in performing acts of kindness without seeking recognition or praise. ~ Ebuka
Here's why:

1. **INTEGRITY OVER IMAGE:** When we perform good deeds solely for the purpose of public recognition, we risk prioritizing our image over the integrity of the action itself. True altruism comes from a place of genuine compassion and empathy, not from a desire for validation or social approval.
2. **PRESERVING THE SANCTITY OF GIVING:** Keeping good deeds private helps maintain the sanctity of giving. It allows the recipient to experience the kindness without feeling indebted or obligated to reciprocate publicly. It also prevents the act from becoming tainted by perceptions of ulterior motives.
3. **HUMILITY AND AUTHENTICITY:** Humility is a virtue often overshadowed in today's culture of self-promotion. Choosing to keep our good deeds private fosters humility and authenticity. It keeps us grounded and reminds us that the value of an act lies in the impact it has, not in the recognition it receives.
4. **RESPECTING PRIVACY AND DIGNITY:** Publicly sharing private acts of kindness can inadvertently violate the privacy and dignity of the individuals involved. Unwanted attention or scrutiny, undermining the trust and respect. ...continued

5. LEADING BY EXAMPLE: By quietly performing good deeds without seeking recognition, we set a powerful example for others to follow. Our actions speak louder than words, inspiring others to prioritize kindness and compassion in their own lives.

In conclusion, while it may be tempting to showcase our good deeds for the world to see, there is profound value in keeping them private. By embracing humility, integrity, and respect for others, we can cultivate a culture of genuine kindness and make a meaningful difference in the world, one quiet act of goodness at a time.



"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." ~ Be Honorable

There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met. ~ W B Yeats

Health is not just what you are eating. Its also about what you are thinking and saying. ~ Buddah

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville
Open 9:30 to 1:00pm
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.
Cuppa & chat always available.



PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elders: Margaret Crowell

Daryl Lush



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James 3:1-12



Across

3. A tiny _____ can start a forest fire.
4. A bit and _____ helps us to control the direction in which horses move.
5. James warned that we should not be _____ to teach God's word.
6. We should use our words to _____ God and reflect a godly life.

Down

1. A _____ and a person can steer a sailing ship.
2. We use our tongues to _____ God and then curse people He made in His own image.
5. The only thing on _____ humans have not tamed is their own tongues.



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|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| ANOINTING | FAITH | MERRY | PSALMS |
| COMMITTED | FAULTS | MONTHS | RAINED |
| CONFESS | FRUIT | NAME | RIGHTEOUS |
| EARTH | HEALED | OIL | SICK |
| ELDERS | HEAVEN | PASSIONS | SING |
| ELIAS | LORD | PRAYED | SINS |

R Potter

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