

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 1 September 2024

PENTECOST 15

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Lord, bless your Church throughout the world. Fill it with faithful teachers and preachers of your Word. Ignite its worship to be a living flame of praise to you and make it wise as it bears witness to Jesus. Give us your grace to lavish the treasures of your Kingdom on all who call on them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 Have you ever wondered about the power of the tongue and the damage it can do. Share a moment where your tongue got you into trouble?

Read Psalm 15 together A psalm of David

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?

² The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;

³ whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others;

⁴ who despises a vile person but honours those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;

⁵ who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

Music Worship 🎵

Song suggestions 🎵 As the deer pants for the water

🎵 He's got the whole world in his hands

🎵 What a friend we have in Jesus

Word 📖; **Mark 7.1-8** **That Which Defiles**

⁷ The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?" ⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Word; James 1.17-27

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.

Listening and Doing

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

COMMENTARY James says; **Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. The vicious scars we cause each other with our tongues are extremely fierce, but sometimes unnoticeable to us.**

Q 2 Do you believe that actions speak louder than words? I have met many wealthy Christians that are not very generous towards others and find it quite easy to ignore the poor and homeless. Please discuss

Q 3 James was writing to many dispersed Christian communities and challenged them to respond as individuals and as a church. What issues could we respond to in our communities?

Q 4 In Mark, Jesus tells us not to prefer creeds to deeds and challenges the Pharisees. It is more important to be clean on the inside. Doing outside rituals like cleaning our hands doesn't make us clean on the inside. Please discuss?

Works

Who can we reach out to this week?

Pray for each other and the works that we offer to God through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

Lord, bless volunteers and workers, not only in this church, but throughout the world, who seek to serve you. Multiply their gifts and talents, so that through their works, many people may receive mercy, comfort, and your loving nature.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)