

Talk “Together”

August 12, 2018

Our Savior’s Way
Worshiping Sundays 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM
Pastor Labuhn

Talking together is our topic for this morning. We express and share our thoughts, feelings and experiences when we talk together. Talking is fundamental to our relationships and helps us to feel more connected to one another. As we talk together, we get to know each other. When we talk together, we grow in our understanding of each other’s needs, what beliefs we hold to be true, and how best to help each other in relationship. And the words that we chose, as someone once said, can build one another up or they can tear each other down.

In our Gospel reading for today, Jesus talks with the Samaritan Woman at the well. The woman was a sinner. Jesus begins the conversation by asking her if she would give Him a drink of water. Knowing only that He was Jewish, she responds in surprise because Samaritans were regarded as people who left the Jewish religion and were considered unclean by the Jews. That’s why she said to Him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” Then Jesus shares with her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

So often, even before we start a conversation with someone, we tend to determine in our minds the outcome of the conversation. A heart that is hardened or deceitful, a lack of charity toward others, a critical thought, or a perceived mannerism of instability, can prevent the sharing of thoughts and ideas and stifle a conversation. And instead of a deeper, more satisfying conversation which

furthering relationship, we talk over one another, we talk past one another, or we simply decide not to engage all together. This is not what God wants for His people.

This reminds me of Harriett. Harriett lived in a small town and went to church on a regular basis. She was the self-appointed supervisor of the church's morals and kept herself up to date on what was happening in other people's lives. Several church members were unappreciative of her activities but didn't talk with her about it because they were afraid of what she might say about them if they did.

One day Harriett accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his car parked in front of the town's only bar all afternoon. Out in the church lobby, she commented to George within earshot of others that anyone seeing his car parked in front of the bar would know that he was an alcoholic. George was surprised that she would say such a thing. Being a man of few words, George stared at her for a moment and then walked away. But later that evening, George drove over to Harriet's house, parked his car in front of her house and left it there overnight.

It is beneficial to discuss and talk together about things that are happening in the church. However, all too often, we tend to gripe and complain about people, programs, money or about changes in our world. This can bring about more change. However, eventually something is said to someone, and feelings can get hurt. Bitterness, slander and anger can take root. And instead of talking and growing together as people of God, our relationships suffer and we easily fall into sin.

God doesn't want us to have that kind of life. He shares with us how to talk together in love even when we and others are still living in sin. He helps us to break down the barriers with those who are standoffish and defensive, and who simply do not like us. His love for all mankind knows no limits. So much that He willingly sacrificed His one and only Son on the cross. So that all who believe in Him, might have eternal life. In doing so, we have peace with God and are able to freely talk to Him and to one another with words of love, kindness, compassion and forgiveness.

His love and forgiveness, enables us to talk together and forgive those who sin against us.

Still, the Lord knows that there are times in our lives that we struggle to talk together. He knows that we don't always build one another up. Unwholesome talk comes out of our mouths from time to time. We continue to struggle in our sins and can thirst for His forgiveness. And so, just as He shared with the woman at the well, He makes it possible for us to receive living water from a spring that wells us to eternal life.

He gives to us this living water through our baptism when simple water and His Word come together, and we receive His Spirit. It's His Holy Spirit that brings us together as a church where we receive forgiveness, where we hear and talk about how best to apply His Word in our lives, where we learn to use words of kindness and compassion, helping us to talk about God's living water with others in our world, so that all might come to believe in Him and have eternal life.

This morning we have a video that's been prepared for you. One of our members, Tom Lewis, who is also one of our Stephen Leaders, shares his thoughts on what talking together means to him. Let's take a look...

Talking together is what we do to feel connected. We talk with others about our struggles – our ups and downs - and in doing so, we grow in our understanding of one another. When we use wholesome words, we build one another up both individually and as a church. The Holy Spirit grows our faith in love for one another and in God, enabling us to overcome that which separates us.

I would encourage you to get together to talk about God's Word by being part of one of our small group bible studies, if you're struggling with an issue - consider talking with a Pastor or a Stephen Minister, and as you leave here this morning, plan on getting together with someone who needs to talk with you. Listening to what they have to talk about, not forgetting to share the love that God has for them, and what God is doing in our life here at Our Savior's Way when we talk together.

Now, let's talk to God together in prayer -