

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, September 15, 2024 (Pentecost 17)

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Discussion Starters

1. Verses 4-9 comprise one of four "Servant Songs" in Isaiah. From these verses, what do you learn about the Messiah?
2. What does God do for the Servant?
3. What is an "instructed tongue?"
4. How would these verses be an encouragement to the first hearers?

James 3:1-12

Discussion Starters

1. In what way(s) is the tongue like (a) a rudder, (b) a bit or (c) the spark of a fire?
2. Why is being a teacher such a big responsibility?
3. If the tongue cannot be tamed (v. 8), why bother trying?
4. According to these verses, what should our attitude be toward our use and choice of words?
5. How closely do you watch what comes out of your mouth?

Mark 8:27-38

Discussion Starters

1. Peter's confession becomes a turning point in the ministry of Jesus. His teaching takes on a dramatically different tone. Why would this be so?
2. What does Jesus teach his disciples regarding his own life and what he would soon experience?
3. Why does Peter react so strongly to this new teaching of Jesus? And why does Jesus react so strongly to Peter?
4. What does it mean to (a) deny yourself and (b) take up your cross?
5. Put the second half of verse 33 into your own words. What is Jesus teaching here?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?