

Poison in Their Mouths

Thanksgiving Sunday, 8 October 2023

Study Questions

Read Numbers 21:4-9

1. In the introduction to the sermon what did Jame suggest were two benefits of juxtaposing the old sinful life with the new life in Christ, like the Apostle Paul did with the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:19-23?
2. What is the opposite of thanksgiving that is so graphically highlighted in our story from Numbers?
3. In their complaint about God and Moses, what consequence of a critical spirit and complaining words did the Israelites highlight (vs. 5)?
4. *Read John 3:14-17.* What significance does Jesus attribute to the remedy of the bronze serpent? And what is the great catastrophe that Jesus' crucifixion can avert? Is James' conclusion about this convincing? Why or why not?
5. *Read Colossians 3:1-3, 5-8, 12, 16-17 - or 1-17 if you have the time.* How does having died to the old sinful self and been raised to new life in Christ fit together with having to continue to put to death what is "earthly" in us?
6. And what must we "put on" to replace those earthly things in our lives (vs. 12)?
7. What are the key attributes of a healthy Christian community that Paul describes in vss 16-17?
8. What aspects of that description do you see in our community at Little T? Where do we need further growth and maturation?
9. *For reflection:* How are you doing personally with these qualities and characteristics?