

Peace for the Journey ... May 20, 2010

Scripture Reading: [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10](#)

St. Francis of Assisi is quoted as saying, "Preach the Gospel at all times: if necessary, use words."

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "What you are shouts so loudly in my ears I cannot hear what you say."

These two very different men, from different worlds, essentially say the same thing. The example of our lives is as important -- if not more so -- than the words we speak. Another way of putting it: what we do (the way we live our lives) affects how people hear our words. Like parents who tell us to, "do as I say, not as I do," we have a hard time gaining a hearing for our words when we don't practice what we preach.

As Christians, we want others to join us in *Loving God, Growing in faith, and Serving Christ*,* but we may discover that our actions speak louder than our words when we try to tell them about our faith. It really works both ways: our actions may reveal that we don't really believe what we say we believe, or our actions may be a better witness than anything we could possibly say.

Ultimately, we should pray that we can be described like the Thessalonian Christians in today's Scripture reading: "...in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it."

Dear God: Strengthen my faith so that the word of the Lord sounds forth from my life in such a powerful way that there's no need to speak about it. Let your light shine so brightly through me that every person I meet today knows without doubt that I follow your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**Loving God, Growing in faith, and Serving Christ* is the mission statement of Main Street UMC.

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