

Faith Matters # 5 – “Blessings” – March 12

One of the songs I learned in Sunday School about blessings goes like this: “Count your blessings; name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” Let’s think about blessings: where do they come from?

They start from God, but they are usually delivered by somebody, even if that person doesn’t know he or she is passing a blessing on. The Bible is full of stories about one person who delivers a much needed blessing to another.

The best example of that is the little boy with the five loaves of bread and two fish. He was carrying them for himself. But when Jesus was looking for food to help feed a crowd of hungry people, the boy offered his food. It became a blessing to many. God was able to deliver a blessing through that boy.

Here at Erskine, I received a surprise and welcome blessing a few Sundays ago. It happened during the passing of the peace. We all got up and walked around shaking hands. I came to a little girl and thought, she won’t want to shake the hand of an old man like me; she won’t even see me. But before I could pass her by, she stuck out her little hand and smiled. I don’t think she knew what a blessing that was for me that day.

Another song I learned in Sunday School was: “Jesus wants me for a sunbeam; I’ll be a sunbeam for him.” That’s what a blessing is: a kind of sunbeam that gives light to someone who might be sad or gloomy, tired or lonely.

So when **we** need a blessing that brings us joy or peace, encouragement or a challenge, don’t be surprised that God delivers that blessing to you through someone – maybe through a friend or even a stranger. God also does it through his creation, like a beautiful sunset or a glorious flower. How or when it happens, we never understand; that’s why Jesus says, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” “How could that blessing possibly happen?” we wonder.

So don’t be surprised that God can use you to be a blessing to others.

(by Rev. Willard Pottinger – Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton)