"Granddad, a bee! It's going to get me," shouted my six year old granddaughter. She had been stung by a bee before and was fearful of a repeat experience. My first instinct was to kill the bee but in the end I just scared it away. You see, we need bees. We depend on bees for much of the food in the world. They are the main pollinators. It is estimated that between 50% and 70% of all crops on the planet are pollinated by bees. That means that if all the bees should die there would be a serious food problem in the world. Einstein once said, "If honeybees became extinct human society will follow within four years." So, it's not such a good idea to kill a bee, if you can help it.

...(read more below)

Now, despite all the good that bees, especially honeybees, do in the world, they can be extremely dangerous creatures. Many people have died from having been stung by bees. The family of the Rev. Charles Harrison of Prairie View, Waller County, can testify to this.

We are all like bees. On the one hand we can make honey and support life. On the other we can sting or even kill. The bee that is able to make honey is the same bee that can sting and cause severe pain, and even death. We make honey by sharing words of encouragement. We sting by criticizing. We make honey by comforting those who are hurting and
Each day we can choose whether we make honey or whether we sting. Some folk enjoy stinging and feel that that they have done some good when they have inflicted pain on one who deserves it. But my understanding of the Kingdom of God is that we ought to spend our days and our lives making honey, as Matthew 5 indicates: "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." (Matt. 5: 38-42). In other words, be nice to people, whoever they are and however much they wish to be unkind to you.

"To be or not to be, that's the question," are the most well known words in Shakespeare's longest play, Hamlet. My question is, "To bee or not to bee?" It's for each of us to decide. Will we, as children of God, seek to be 'honey bees' and bless people around us through our kindness and compassion or will we be stinging bees through our uncaring attitude, harsh words and our criticism? After all, the most accurate barometer there is of our relationship with God is our relationship with our fellow human beings.

Don W McFarlane
Administrative Pastor
We hope you found this week's e-weekend newsletter helpful. If there is anything else you would like to see included, we appreciate your feedback. Just email us to sligo@sligochurch.org. We will continue to send this out on a weekly basis. Remember, you may choose to unsubscribe for any reason at any time, though, we hope you won't!

May God continue to richly bless you!
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