August 23, 2012
Sligo e-weekend Newsletter
"Lesson From A Broken Vase"

Dear Lexie,

In the book, God's Minutes, by C L Paddock, the story is told of a nobleman who visited the famous Wedgewood potteries in England and had a conversation with Mr. Wedgewood. There was a young boy working in the room where the two men were conversing. The nobleman expressed some doubts about God and Christianity, and spoke in an unkind and abusive manner about the church and religion. The boy, who had been reared in a Christian home, was very surprised that a nobleman would speak like that but after a while he laughed with the nobleman at his disrespectful jokes. He felt sure that such a great man could not be wrong.

...(read more below)

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Mr. Wedgewood was a Christian and did not appreciate the way in which the nobleman was speaking and the influence he was having on the little boy. To teach the nobleman a lesson, he showed him one of the most beautiful vases in the whole plant, explaining the delicate processes through which it passed in the making. The nobleman was delighted and wanted to buy this vase for his collection but to his dismay, Mr. Wedgewood threw it to the floor, breaking it in many pieces.

The nobleman rebuked Mr Wedgewood for being careless. Mr Wedgewood then replied, "Do you forget, my lord, that the soul of that boy who had been listening to you, came innocent into the world? That
parents, friends, all good influences, have been at work during his short life to make him a vessel fit for the Master's use? That you, with your touch, have undone the work of years? No human being can bind together again what you have broken."

For a moment the nobleman stood motionless, silent, as if in deep thought. Then he looked Mr Wedgewood in the eye, held out his hand, and in a frank, sincere voice replied, "I had never before thought of the influence of my words."

The Apostle Paul says in 2 Cor. 2: 15&16, "For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life...." I think it is safe to conclude that the aroma of Christ is the influence which God expects each Christian to exert upon others. In fact, every person, Christian or not, exerts an influence in every encounter with others. That influence can be for good or ill, life or death. Said the wise man, "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord." (Prov. 20:27). When once the wick of our life is lit it automatically affects those around us for good or for ill.

In every conversation, in every comment given, in every contact made, we wave a little essence of ourselves. This essence is either the sweet aroma of Christ that leads to life or the smell of evil that leads to death. In all our interactions with others we either leave them closer to the kingdom of God or farther from it. Our influence is never neutral. I urge you to use your influence each day to build the kingdom of God.

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!