

E-DEVOTION FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

I am having an awful time with words. Words, like... **peace, joy, comfort, love, righteousness, justice, truth, honesty, anger, revenge...** some words bring me a sense of calm, some words just seem to 'stick in my craw!'

We play Scrabble sometimes. Actually, quite often these last months. You know how it is, the letters spill out in a jumble and you try to make some sense of them. Try to put them together to make words that are accurate.

Well, that's how I feel today as I make an attempt at sharing a devotional, a 'comforting' thought with you, my friends.

In Matthew 12:37, we read: "*Your words will be used to judge you – to declare you either innocent or guilty.*" So, we need to be careful with words. You never really know how others will interpret what we say. Our words can do so much good... give comfort, show compassion, inspire. And our words can create havoc. Our words may even be used against us.

It's Martin Luther King Day as I write these thoughts. I have always been inspired to do good in the world by his words. I hope I always am. Our nation and our world are in dire need of a peacemaker right now. Dr. King reminded us... "*The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.*" Dr. King's words have influenced us for decades. So, words matter. I pray that these words from the Old Testament in Amos still ring true today: "*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*"

Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Fold them, bow your head. Ask God to help you to be a Peacemaker in our world this day. And please get the vaccination when you have the chance. Do it for all of us.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, we are reminded to choose our words very carefully. Let what we say be an expression of what is in our heart. We are in great need of healing here in this place we inhabit. We pray for peace this week as our nation moves on in the democratic process. Bless us all and God Bless our healers, our workers, our leaders, our troops, and the United States of America. Amen. **In Jesus' Name, Amen.**