

# Daily Reflection

**Daily Update – Friday, 25th September**

**Good Morning Everyone,**

**The Reflection has been provided by David, which he very kindly did a couple of weeks ago before he was taken ill. Our prayers are with him and Anne.**

**Pause: Psalm 144 v 1&2: Praise be to the Lord my Rock...  
He is my loving God and my fortress**

**Reflect: Consider him...so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.  
(Hebrews 12:3)**

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, as we consider your Beloved Son Jesus may your Holy Spirit strengthen us and encourage us in our walk with you.

**Readings:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Psalm 144:1-7; Luke 9:18-22

Who do you say Jesus is? An easy enough question to answer, you might think at first, but in fact there are probably more answers to that question than I have time to write about this morning. In our reading from Luke's Gospel we see Jesus, after a time of private prayer, asking his disciples, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They come up with a variety of answers, including John the Baptist. Elijah, or one of the other prophets of old. Jesus then goes on to ask them, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" Peter responds with a really profound answer, "God's Messiah." Since becoming one of his disciples Peter, and the others, have seen some amazing healings, miracles, lives transformed, and, as we see earlier in the chapter, have themselves been a part of the life-changing ministry of Jesus. They have begun to realise that this man is much more than just a great teacher, he is the long-promised Messiah who will deliver his people. As we know, that deliverance took a different direction from that which they perhaps expected; Jesus did not come just to deliver God's people from the Roman occupation forces, but to deliver all who come to him from the grip of sin and death.

So, let me ask again, who do you say Jesus is? My own answer to that question needs more than just a word or two. Jesus became real to me about 60 years ago, when I realised that he went to the cross so that my sins might be forgiven, that he had promised to be with me forever, and that I could trust him completely. Like Peter, all those years ago, I recognised that here was the one who came to save us, and over the years that relationship which deepened so that I know Jesus as Friend, Brother, Healer, as well as Saviour. At the beginning of this Update I have quoted a verse from Hebrews chapter 12, where we are told to "consider him." The Greek word there for "consider" has several depths of meaning, including to think over, to count up, to calculate, to reason and of course to consider. Many years ago I heard a preacher say, "Take long looks at Jesus," and time spent doing just that is never wasted. There is always more to learn about this wonderful Saviour who died for us, and who is, as I shared a week ago, alive forever more.

Our reading today from the Book of Ecclesiastes, which was turned into a very popular song by Pete Seeger in the 50s, and very successfully recorded by "The Byrds" in 1965, tells us that there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens. So, if your answer to my question above is a don't know,

# Daily Reflection

perhaps this is the right time for you to invite Jesus into your life as Saviour and Friend. Or perhaps you have made that decision, but would like to know more about a deeper relationship with Jesus; there is no better time to search for that than right now. If this Update has spoken to you, then do please contact any one of the staff or team here at St John's; we would love to help you on your spiritual journey with the one who is well worth considering!

**From Psalm 144:** Praise be to the Lord my Rock...  
He is my loving God and my fortress,  
my stronghold and my deliver,  
my shield, in whom I take refuge...

**Prayer:** May each one of us find in Christ Jesus, our risen Lord, a companion for our journey, a sure ground for our hopes, the peace that passes understanding, and the joy that is eternal. Amen

## **Remember...**



## **News**

### **Sunday services in October**

Please email me at [admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com](mailto:admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com) if you would like to come to any services in October.

**The cut-off date for booking for each week's service is the Thursday before.**

**If you are unable to attend a Sunday service that you have booked, email the admin address of phone 01243 375576.**

# Daily Reflection

## Bags of Compost

**They are more bags of compost available around the back of the Centre if you would like to help yourself. Could you please bring the bag back.**

## Urgent Help Required

We are in need of someone to help with the video editing for the Sunday services. This involves taking the various video/text elements, combining them together, and uploading to the internet. If you or someone you know is interested in helping out or seeing what is involved, please get in touch with Jon Robinson. [wardens@stjohnssouthbourne.com](mailto:wardens@stjohnssouthbourne.com)



### **Please turn it off!**

If you are in the Church for a service, prayer or just a visit, can you make sure all the sockets and lights are turned off before you leave? This will help us keep the building safe and save us money on electric bills! Many thanks.

**Care for the Family are running this course below. If you would like more information, here is the link:**

[https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online/raising-faith?utm\\_source=STD&utm\\_medium=RFE&utm\\_campaign=RFE&utm\\_term=RFE&utm\\_content=RFE](https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online/raising-faith?utm_source=STD&utm_medium=RFE&utm_campaign=RFE&utm_term=RFE&utm_content=RFE)

A promotional graphic for the 'Raising Faith' course. It features the 'Care for the Family' logo on the left, which consists of a blue circle with the text 'Care for the Family' in white. To the right, the text 'Raising FAITH' is written in a white, handwritten-style font, with 'FAITH' in all caps. Below this, a small black circle contains the text 'Helping our children find a faith that lasts'. The main body of text describes the course, stating that 50% of children in Christian homes will have their own faith as adults, and encourages parents to model a real faith. It mentions speakers Katharine Hill and Andy Frost. At the bottom, there are icons for a calendar, a clock, and a book, followed by the text 'Viewing dates: 6, 7, 8 Oct', 'Time: 7.30pm', and 'Book here'.

**The theme for this Sunday's evening service is Isaac & Ishmael – Galations 4:21-31.**

# Daily Reflection

**The Quiz is Back!!!**



**Humour**

