

# Daily Reflection

**Daily Update – Tuesday 22nd September**

**Good Morning Everyone,**

**The Reflection has been provided by Rosemary Pearson. Thank you Rosemary!**

***“To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.” (Prov. 21:3 NRSV)***

Psalm 119:1-8

What makes you happy?.....

Perhaps - having loved ones close by.....good health.....sunny autumn days.....financial security.....an unexpected meeting with a friend after a long gap.....or something else?

Psalm 119 is described by Bible Commentator Derek Kidner as “giant among psalms”. Every verse contains a reference to God’s “law” variously described as “commands”, “statutes”, or “precepts”.

176 verses may seem daunting, but it repays careful meditation, possibly on a verse by verse basis, or a section at a time. I can recommend it.

The psalmist believes that happiness (or “Blessedness” as some Bible versions say) is found through walking in God’s law.

How many of us, I wonder, would agree that happiness is about being right with God and seeking to lead a blameless life? To many people this sounds rather restrictive and I expect that most of us, deep-down struggle with the idea because we want to be free to do our own thing!

The psalmist has discovered that living away from God leads, in the long term, to all sorts of difficulties even if it is not immediately apparent at the time. Shame and the fear of punishment underlie a lot of our problems and many of us know this from personal experience.

We were created in God’s image and are intended to live according to His design. That is why it is important to stay close to the instructions set out in His Word. Real peace and security stem from this.

God in His kindness and generosity gives us lots of things, like those listed at the beginning of this thought, to enjoy. He graciously hears and answers our prayers, but being a Christian involves taking ourselves out of the centre of our lives, and putting God and His will first. It needs a radical shift in focus, as we grow in understanding Him and His ways.

A secure relationship with Him, walking hand in hand in partnership, and seeking to know His will day by day should be our highest priority. These verses from Psalm 119 demonstrate that God is consistent in making His will known to us. Staying within it is the way to ensure that we enjoy all the benefits of His Fatherly care – even though sometimes obedience to Him may seem inconvenient and involve difficult choices.

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Words from an old chorus come to mind...."there is no peace, no joy, no thrill like walking in His will....." What a privilege! Nothing can match it.

## Luke 8:19—21

No-one was more single-minded in following the Father's will than Jesus. Doing so did not give Him a comfortable life, which is why He spent so much time in quietness with His Heavenly Father in love and obedience. The brief incident described in these verses may shock us and leave us some uncomfortable questions to wrestle with.

It appears that Jesus was being insensitive and rude to His family when they wanted to speak to Him, but could not get near because of the crowds. They may well have felt hurt, rejected, frustrated and angered by His response, as well as worried about the direction He was going. This was not the only occasion when His behaviour concerned them.

Jesus had other priorities and was not going to be deflected from the work God had called Him to. On many occasions He had to be firm in the face of those who would turn Him aside from God's will.

It was not a failure in love on Jesus' part, and later His family would come to understand and follow Him. What He was really doing was to elevate all of us who believe in Him to the status of family. Now, that is quite a thought!

## Seeking first God's Kingdom

We are left with some challenging questions. How much effort do we put into discovering God's will for our lives and how whole-hearted are we in our commitment to His will? Does He come first – or do we place Him lower on our list of priorities?

True happiness is found by walking hand in hand with Him. We cannot do better than that!

## ***Prayer***

God of constant mercy,  
who sent your Son to save us:  
remind us of your goodness,  
increase your grace within us,  
that our thankfulness may grow,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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## Remember..



## News

### 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.

## The Quiz is Back!!!



# Daily Reflection

DAILY REFLECTION

## Humour

**The whole of the UK  
could be tested by  
midnight if they let an  
Aldi checkout assistant  
run the drive through.**