

Daily Reflection

Daily Update – Wednesday 30th September

Good Morning Everyone,

Today's Reflection is from Matt

Let's continue to spend time reflecting on God's word in prayerful quiet today, remembering God's faithfulness to us in his word and in his Spirit.

Pause

As I enter prayer now,
I pause to be still;
to breathe slowly;
to re-centre my scattered senses
upon the presence of God.

Rejoice

I rejoice in God's voice today, reminding myself I can speak out my fears and look for his salvation, with the ancient words of all God's people in Psalm 88

Lord, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.
May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.
I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.
I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.

Luke 9:57-62; Job 9:1-16

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'

Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

He said to another man, 'Follow me.'

But he replied, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.'

Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'

Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.'

Jesus replied, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'

The Australian Rugby team, I am told, chose the Wallaby as their symbol because it cannot move backwards. There is something about that mindset, that way of thinking that encourages me. It meant they were determined, and focused on their goal, that they pushed forward towards their objective, and they gave ground reluctantly, staring, often glaring, in the face of opposition. It is a mindset that served them very well.

Daily Reflection

DAILY REFLECTION

There's no gentle Jesus meek and mild in this encounter either. His point is uncompromising, look forward towards the Kingdom of God. The requests the people made would have been huge distractions, had they gone they would have missed out. Jesus set his face, like flint, toward Jerusalem, (Luke 9:51), and pressed on as an example. He never swayed, never strayed, but always stayed in the presence of God, even into the turmoil he would endure.

Everything in church today has been finely tuned to meet people's spiritual needs. It reflects our more consumerist and comfortable Western mindset. Early riser? 8am Communion. Student? Lunchtime service. Like Liturgy? Common Worship, and so forth. Nothing wrong with that in itself, we need to meet people where they are. But what happens when it is taken away? Brother Yun challenged the Western Churches, 'If God wasn't there, would we notice?'

Perhaps we look back for things familiar and comforting at this time. I'm not sure it is helpful at the moment. It does not seem to be where the movement of the Spirit is focused. The early disciples did not have the luxury of established religion, dedicated buildings and set service times. But they did have Jesus and they were always discovering what he could do in the here and now, in the moment.

How can we live like that today? We need to learn to.

I like Job. He is among my favourite people in the Bible. His story is one of the oldest and plainest. He struggled with tremendous loss and how the world was crashing in on him in physically painful and emotionally challenging ways. He would no longer see his family, he could no longer enjoy the fruits of his labours. On top of that, his friends weren't much help either.... He really needed to know God was there in the moment. I wonder if we are able to be good friends at the moment.

Job finds himself adrift from all that he had had, but still turned toward God. Even though he recognised he was tiny and insignificant compared to God, his desire was still to be before him. 'How can a mortal be righteous before God' he asks, verse 1. He even acknowledges he has no , no right or cause before God. But, importantly he knows God is there, even if he cannot 'feel him', verse 11.

I suspect that is how many of us feel at the moment. We know God is bigger than all this, but all these confusing events are happening under his sovereign power, (compare Job 9:5-10). It feels unsettling, but like Job and the Psalmist, we should speak to God about it, trusting that he is there. Even if we can't feel his presence.

However, Job also looked forward to a solution, an arbitrator between him and God's verse 33, who would be God's solution. Jesus wanted his disciples to look forward to the Kingdom and its signs of God's solution.

So I focus on looking forward to finding God in the midst of this, in moments of quiet, in His word, in the kindness of our brothers and sisters, trusting he will continue carrying me along.

Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;

Daily Reflection

DAILY REFLECTION

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

Yielding prayer

The Psalmist knows that God can intervene in this life, that he can show his wonders and love. Perhaps in the whirlwind, you’ve lost your bearings and feel adrift, buffeted by the world. Perhaps you’ve been yearning for familiar things that you relied upon. I pray that God would show us his ways, that can come, even in this situation and lead us on, every day, every morning anew.

I call to you, Lord, every day;
I spread out my hands to you.
Do you show your wonders to the dead?
Do their spirits rise up and praise you?
Is your love declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in Destruction?
Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?
But I cry to you for help, Lord;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
Ps 88:9-13

Closing Prayer

**Father help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way.
Jesus help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet
Spirit, help me to seek the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.
Amen**

Remember...



Daily Reflection

News

Sunday services in October

Please email me at 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.

Have you got flu-like symptoms? Please don't attend Church.

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

St. John's on YouTube

Did you know St. John's has a YouTube channel? You can find all of the services we have produced during the lockdown period, as well as all of the tracks produced by our worship group.

It would really help us if you could press the 'Subscribe' button when you visit the YouTube Page!

Full details can be found on the St. John's website or by [clicking this link](#) .

Daily Reflection
DAILY REFLECTION

Humour



Don't forget to brush your teeth!