

Daily Reflection

DAILY REFLECTION

Daily Update – Friday, 2nd October

Good Morning Everyone,

Today's Reflection is from Sarah Adams – Thank you Sarah!

Job 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Psalm 139:6-11 and Luke 10:13-16

"Lord could you just..." How often do we say that, sometimes with some exasperation? Sometimes, I think we imply, Lord, could you just do as you are told, do what I expect, and all will be well. You fulfil your part of the bargain – namely answering prayers and I will do my part – worship, thanks etc.

Our readings today remind us of the proper order of things.

Let's first look at Job.

For those of you not familiar with the story of Job. Job was a righteous and godly man, whom God blessed with family, wealth and health. He was very well thought of in the community. After 3 conversations between Satan and God, God allowed Job to lose everything in quick succession. After many chapters of conversation between Job's friends and Job about how he must have sinned terribly to have deserved so many calamities, Job cries out to God. God finally speaks. The ensuing chapters are so worth taking the time to read. They paint a poetic picture of how God holds the whole universe and eternity in his hands, whilst at the same time challenging Job. He asks Job, and he may well ask us: "Have you commanded the morning, do you know how the earth works, do you understand life and death?"

God's response brings Job to his knees in humility. In that moment, Job realises with every fibre of his being, just how unworthy he is and how he is in no position to challenge God. God's ways are so far beyond his understanding.

This realisation is carried on in Psalm 139. This is a favourite psalm of many. David expresses his wonder at God, how God knows everything about him, from the words on his lips to the desires of his heart. David realises that there is absolutely nowhere he can go to hide from God and all his deeds, whether good or bad are already known to God.

In the busyness of our daily life, it is very easy to forget that God sees every moment and is aware of our every thought. This can be quite terrifying sometimes, when our thoughts stray to places they really shouldn't go. We can twist and turn and try to justify ourselves. We can try to run and hide. But ultimately, that is futile. When we stop and turn back to God in repentance, we are met by his forgiveness, mercy and overwhelming love. Then we can rejoice in the fact that it is indeed God who is in charge and knows everything about us and we are safe in his arms.

Both Job and the Psalms show us how important it is to spend time recognising God for who he is and this is borne out in our final reading in Luke. The people of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum had all heard Jesus preaching and teaching. They had seen and experienced his miracles, but they were not prepared to change and accept God on his terms. They had decided for themselves how things were going to be. They were happy to benefit from the miracles. "Jesus, could you **just**

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heal this person. Could you **just** feed us? Could you **just** be the Messiah we have decided we want". The consequences would be dire for those who would not listen and respond to Jesus. They were forfeiting eternal life with Jesus.

This would serve as a warning for us today. If we choose to limit ourselves to telling Jesus what to do and who to be, we too will miss out on the majesty and magnificence, the joy of being known and loved as well as the opportunity to join in with His plans.

Prayer

Lord God, thank you that you know everything about us, the good and the bad, yet still you love us Thank you for your amazing patience with us. Lord, please correct us when we turn our prayers into demands and help us to align ourselves with Your will and Your ways. Help us today to appreciate all that you do in our lives and those whom we love. Amen

Remember...



News

Copyright Overview Training

You are invited to attend our Copyright Overview training session on Thursday 8th October, at 8pm. This training is essential for all those who use images, video and audio on behalf of the church in any form, including posters, service content, programmes, online materials and recordings.

The training will take place on Zoom and last around half an hour. Please contact the office for the connection details.

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Mark Everson

Mark has settled well into his new home, Rotherlea Care Home (he thinks he is still in Glebe as the layout is the same!).

If you would like to call or send him a card, the telephone and address are:

**Rotherlea Care Home
Dawtrey Road
Petworth GU28 0EA**

01798 306616

I am sure he would love to hear news from St. John's.

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.

Humour

**Some people
are kind, polite,
and sweet-
spirited until
you try to sit in
their pews.**