

Daily Reflection

Daily Update – Tuesday, 6th October

Good Morning Everyone,

Today's Reflection is from Mike Wilson – Thank you Mike!

Today's Readings - Galatians 1:13-24. Psalm 139:1-9 and Luke 10:38-42

Our gospel reading today is a tale of two sisters, Mary and Martha. They and their brother Lazarus were great friends of Jesus. He seems to have visited them at their home in Bethany, a few miles from Jerusalem, whenever he could. It would be wrong simply to pigeon-hole the two sisters from this story as Martha the active 'doing disciple' and Mary as a reflective 'listening disciple'. The story of the Good Samaritan comes just before this episode in Luke's gospel. Jesus commends the compassionate Samaritan for not only 'taking pity' on the beaten up traveller but also for tending to his wounds and paying for his care at a local inn. In that situation the Samaritan was a 'doer', not someone who bypassed the stricken man mouthing platitudinous words. So this real life episode of Jesus's visit to the home of his three friends builds on what comes before. Here, Martha is the hospitable, busy 'doer' who is making sure that Jesus and the disciples are properly fed and watered. Mary is the sister who prefers to sit at Jesus's feet taking in every word He utters.

In this domestic situation it seems that Martha is distracted and stressed by all the preparations she wants to make. As a result, her attitude is negative as she comes to Jesus and grumpily asks her Lord *"don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"* (v40). She is wrong to say that Jesus doesn't care and to tell Him what to do. We can be like Martha when life is tough for us and can become 'moaning disciples', unable to see things as they are, and as Jesus sees them. There is a warning for us here!

Jesus knew what was really going on with Martha better than she knew herself. His response to her complaint is full of insight - *"Martha, Martha,...you are worried and upset about many things"*. He then commends Mary for her humble devotion by saying that *"only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her"* (Luke 10:42). At first sight Jesus's rebuke to Martha, the busy sister seems to be rather harsh. After all, she is trying to serve Him in a practical way whilst Mary is merely listening intently to Jesus as she sits passively at His feet,

The point here is not that it is always better to be a 'listener' like Mary than a practical 'doer' like the Good Samaritan or Martha. One commentator says that *"both listening and acting are appropriate behaviours for Jesus's disciples."* The challenge for us is *"trying to determine which is needed in the immediate situation."* If we are to achieve this sensitivity, we must be led by the Holy Spirit to be both active listeners and doers at different times depending on the circumstances. Martha and Mary, with their different characters and strengths, were probably a formidable team alongside their brother Lazarus. Jesus had chosen them to be His friends just as they trusted Him as their Lord. On this occasion, sadly, Martha had become distracted, and hot and bothered, at the very time when Jesus was about to set off towards Jerusalem where He was ultimately to face death at Calvary. Her attitude and timing were all wrong but Jesus was gentle and understanding with her, just as He always is with us!

Daily Reflection

Today's Prayer: Thank you Lord Jesus that you call us your friends and that You are the greatest friend each of us could ever have. We know that you only want the very best for us and from us. Through the Holy Spirit we pray that, like You, we may have true discernment and sensitivity in the way we relate to others from day to day. May we all serve You as both careful listeners and active doers. May our attitudes be selfless and may our actions be timely in each circumstance of our lives. We ask all this so that we might become more like You and please You day by day. Thank You Lord

Remember...



News



Christmas Boxes – Southbourne Love your Neighbour

This year we are planning to distribute Christmas boxes to 60 families who we delivered to during lockdown. Below is a list of items we need. If you feel you would like to contribute, (it doesn't matter how big or small) could you please contact Jane Inglis at Jane@inglis3.org.

Bistro
Cellotape
Christmas pudding
Christmas cake
Christmas cards

Daily Reflection

Christmas crackers
Christmas decorations
Christmas lights
Christmas hats/antlers
Chocolate
Cranberry sauce
Custard powder
Fizz drinks no alcohol
Biscuits
Stuffing
Tinsel
Wrapping paper.

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.

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.

Humour



NOT TODAY, COVID