

SEPTEMBER 20TH AND 27TH 2020

THE LINK

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BELMONT NEWSLETTER

The upside-down kingdom

A commentary on Matthew 20: 1-11 by Steve Aisthorpe; New Daylight May-August 2011

The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day... About nine in the morning he went out and saw others... He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right."... He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others... When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his supervisor, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first." The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble.'

It was Victor Vroom of Yale University who proposed 'expectancy theory'. This states that when people see clear links between performance and rewards, they are highly motivated; people decide what they deserve by comparing themselves with others. Peter's question 'What then will there be for us?' (19: 27) prompted this story from Jesus.

Many of us, if we are honest, sympathise with those who were hired first: 'these men...worked only one hour...and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work' (20: 12).



Jesus is not teaching industrial relations here, though - he is explaining the 'upside-down kingdom', where a profound turnaround of values and priorities takes place (v16). Contemporary historians tell us that Jesus told his story in an era of unemployment. The marketplace was the job centre of the day. With no state benefits, no work meant zero income and hungry families. The master, then, is fair to all (v13), but, driven by unfathomable compassion, he proactively seeks those who need what he can offer, knowing fully that they cannot earn it.

Reflection

'Can't I do what I want...? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?' (v15, THE MESSAGE).

Have you checked on a friend this week?

'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'

Vicar - Locum Reverend Liz Bufton 0437 524 865

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Sunday 20th September ~ 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sentence. By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. **Ephesians 2: 8-9.**

Collect. Loving and righteous God, your boundless generosity exceeds all that we can desire or deserve, and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first: liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may be free to love and serve others, and in your service may find our true reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings. Exodus 16.2-15; Psalm 105.1-6, 105.37-45; Philippians 1 or 1: 21-30; Matthew 20.1-16.

Sunday 27th September ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Sentence. Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him. **Hosea 6.1a, 2b.**

Collect. Grant, O merciful God, that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus, who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant, and in humility became obedient even to death. For you have highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, Jesus Christ, the Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

Readings. Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 78: 14, 11-16; Philippians 2 or 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32.

Prayers for Today

pray for the community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, and for reconciliation and treaty.
- For those within our influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For The Grace McKellar Centre and all Nursing Homes.
- For Probus and Community Interest Groups.

pray for the wider church

- For the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
- For Archbishop Philip Freier and the Diocese of Melbourne.
- For The Episcopal Church of South Sudan, St Stephens, Kakuma (The Revd Simon Majak) and Donholm (The Revd David Chol).
- For The Oodthenong Episcopal Area (The Rt Revd Kate Prowd).
- For The Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Jill McCoy).
- For the new Area Deans: Bellarine (Elizabeth Breakey) and Corio (Jon Taylor).
- For all Baptist Churches.

pray for our church

- For every member of St Stephen's in this time of transition and time of lessening restrictions.
- For Mary, Arthur and Jess following the recent fire in their home.
- For our Synod Representatives and our Incumbency Committee Members as they await Diocesan directions.
- Pray with thanks for Reverend Liz, for her enthusiasm and for continuing to try new ways to lead us in these troubling times.
- For those among us who are working tirelessly to keep St Stephen's 'working as a Community of Faith'
- For our Visiting Communion Team.
- To still strive to grow as a community of disciples of Jesus especially in this time of 'disconnection'.
- To strive to maintain our connection with the community of Belmont and with each other to proclaim the good news of Jesus.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For the financial and other resources to enable Christ's mission.

More prayers on page 3.

OUR NEXT ZOOM MESSY CHURCH IS SEPTEMBER 27



The next 'Zoom-Messy Church' service will be held on the last Sunday in September (27th). 'Zoom-Messy Church' starts at 10.30am, right after 9.30am Zoom Church.

If you have not been connecting to Zoom Church, and would like to be part of it and part of 'Zoom-Messy Church' please email the Church and let us know your email address, so we may send you the Zoom Church invitation. The Church email address is: ststephensang2@iinet.net.au

We look forward to joining with our children in songs, craft activities, a reading and short sermon, in this exciting new journey in sharing our faith.

Prayers for Today

pray for those in need

- For Murray Calder, June Cook, Jack Laherty, Sheila Dawson, Tom Collett, John and Lyn Hilcke, Alison Walker, Sylvia Biviano, Betty Miller, Diana Smith, Zaher Mhannah, Rhoda Lynch, Ken Bampton, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Rose Edwards, Shirley Dougherty, Wilf Seed, Charlotte MacEndry, Rev'd Sharon Valentino, Jim and Joy Durran, Den, Dawn Tait, for Dawn's sister Coral, Bernard Conradie and André, Amira Farag, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Archdeacon Jill McCoy and for all others on our hearts and minds.
- For those we don't know but have no one to pray for them.
- For Grace McKellar Centre.
- For The Housebound and their Support Agencies.

Prayers for those in need

Could everyone please check through the 'pray for those in need' section above to see if everyone listed still needs to be included, or, if you know anybody who should be added to the list: – please tell Peter Fyfe by email:

pfyfe@iinet.net.au or phone: 0417 576 710.

Thank you to those who have responded.

pray for the world

- For peace and prosperity for all nations in political turmoil especially where it has led to violence.
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and their Support Agencies.
- For all who are afflicted and affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, and all those who are caring for and treating those who have the disease.
- For all governments; that they will surrender power for service.
- For all Asylum Seekers and Refugees, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and all Advocates and Support Agencies.
- For Arts and Entertainment Industry Workers.
- For Publishers, booksellers and Library Workers.
- For Foundation South Sudan, for finances, and scholarship recipients (Mach, Abhor, David, James).

pray for the community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, and for reconciliation and treaty.
- For those within our influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For The Grace McKellar Centre and all Nursing Homes.
- For Probus and Community Interest Groups.



Your garden reminds me of my mum's garden - always something different coming out! It's a ray of light for me. Love it. Ail, (80 year old)

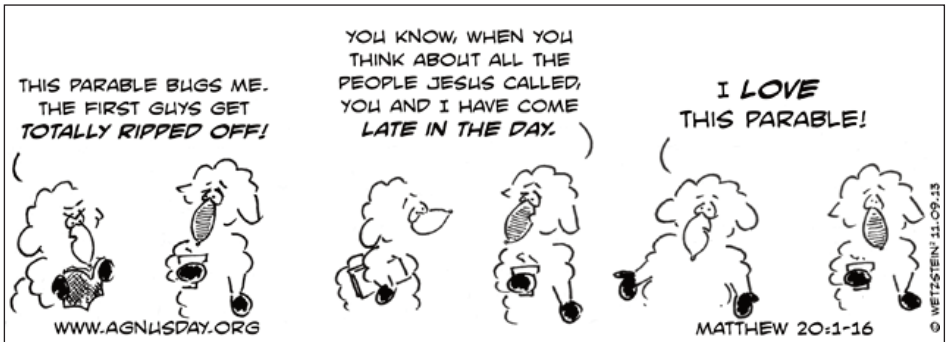
To the gardeners here
It just like to thank you for all the joy you are giving us all getting our exercise. Keep up the good work.

There should be more of it!

A special 'feel good' story

This is a story that would make any gardener's chest swell with delight and we all know how passionate Tom Collett is about his garden. So... About three weeks ago Barbara took a greeting card out of their letterbox; inside the card was a message from an elderly 'passer-by' that gave Barbara and Tom a delightful surprise. The message on the card is shown on one of the

photos above, and the message says:
 'To the gardener here. I'd just like to thank you for all the joy you are giving to us all getting our exercise. Keep up the good work.
 Your garden reminds me of my mum's garden - always something different coming out!
 It's a ray of light for me. Love it. Ail, (80 year old)



Covid restrictions have been eased but vigilance is still most important

As the saying goes: 'don't blow it!'. Rejoice, but keep doing the simple things like hand hygiene, physical distancing, keeping away from crowded places, wear a mask, and please, don't go around hugging everyone in sight. (More information on page 6).

Betty Clarke's Funeral Service

If you weren't able to see the video of Betty's funeral service, Max Osborn has obtained a copy from Tuckers Funeral Service. It is on a DVD or a USB drive. If you would like to borrow it, please phone Max on **5243 4122**.

Daily Readings w/c 21.9

Prayer of the Week

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Monday September 21st

Morning

Ps 50; Nahum 1: 15-2: 9; Matthew 6: 16-24.

Evening

Ps 119: 41-64; 2 Maccabees 7: 1-19;
Ephesians 4: 17-28.

Tuesday September 22nd

Morning

Ps 51; Nahum 2: 10-3: 7; Matthew 6: 25-7: 5.

Evening

Pss 52, 53; 2 Maccabees 7: 20-41;
Ephesians 4: 29-5: 5.

Wednesday September 23rd

Morning

Pss 54, 55: 1-12; Nahum 3: 8-19;
Matthew 7: 6-23.

Evening

Ps 55: 13-15 (16-17) 18-28; 1 Maccabees 2: 1-28;
Ephesians 5: 6-20.

Thursday September 24th

Morning

Pss 56, 57; Joel 1: 1-14; Matthew 7: 24-8: 4.

Evening

Pss 60, 61; 1 Maccabees 2: 29-48;
Ephesians 5: 21-33.

Friday September 25th

Morning

Pss 62, 63; Joel 1: 15-2: 11; Matthew 8: 5-22.

Evening

Pss 64, 67; 1 Maccabees 2: 49-70;
Ephesians 6: 1-9.

Saturday September 26th

Morning

Pss 65, 70; Joel 2: 12-24; Matthew 8: 23-34.

Evening

Ps 66; 1 Maccabees 3: 1-26; Ephesians 6: 10-24.

Daily Readings w/c 28.9

Prayer of the Week

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant us such a measure of your grace that, running in the way of your commandments, we may obtain your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Monday September 28th

Morning

Ps 71; Joel 2: 25-3: 8; Matthew 9: 1-13.

Evening

Ps 119: 65-88; 1 Maccabees 3: 27-41;
Colossians 1: 1-8.

Tuesday September 29th

Morning

Ps 69: 1-16; Joel 3: 9-21; Matthew 9: 14-26.

Evening

Ps 69: 17-23, (24-30) 31-38;
1 Maccabees 3: 42-60; Colossians 1: 9-20.

Wednesday September 30th

Morning

Ps 72; Ezra 1; Matthew 9: 27-38.

Evening

Ps 73; 1 Maccabees 4: 1-36;
Colossians 1: 21-29.

Thursday October 1st

Morning

Ps 74; Ezra 2: 64-3: 8; Matthew 10: 1-15.

Evening

Pss 75, 76; 1 Maccabees 4: 37-61;
Colossians 2: 1-7.

Friday October 2nd

Morning

Ps 77; Ezra 3: 9-4: 6; Matthew 10: 16-27.

Evening

Ps 78: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 6: 1-17;
Colossians 2: 8-15.

Saturday October 3rd

Morning

Ps 78: 16-38; Ezra 4: 4-11-5: 2;
Matthew 10: 28-42.

Evening

Ps 78: 39-70; 1 Maccabees 6: 18-47;
Colossians 2: 16-23.

Latest Covid advice for Regional Victoria

This information may be helpful. It was taken from the DHHS website on Thursday 17th September

From 11:59pm on Wednesday 16 September, regional Victoria has moved to the Third Step

There are no restrictions on the reasons to leave home.

Stay safe as restrictions ease by washing your hands regularly, wearing a face covering when you leave home, coughing and sneezing into your elbow, and keeping at least 1.5 metres from others.

Keep your friends and family safe by meeting outdoors. There is a lower risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19) between people if you are outdoors. Groups of up to ten people will be able to meet outdoors.

Restrictions are easing to allow for cafes, restaurants, beauty and personal care, and some outdoor entertainment venues to open. Restaurants will open in a predominantly outdoor capacity, with a group limit of 10 people, and density limits.

You must not travel to metropolitan Melbourne except for permitted work purposes, care and compassionate reasons or shopping for food and supplies, if necessary.

Face coverings must be worn by all Victorians when they leave home, unless they have a lawful exception.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) get tested and stay home. Stay at home if you feel unwell.

Travel

There are no restrictions on reasons to leave home or the distance you can travel and go on holiday across regional Victoria.

You can go on holiday in regional Victoria.

You can 'book accommodation' with the people you live with, your intimate partner, or the household you have formed a bubble with (*your household can book accommodation with up to five members of your bubble household*).

Having others stay with you in your holiday house is not permitted.

Can I travel through metropolitan Melbourne on my way to my holiday destination?

You can travel through metropolitan Melbourne on your way to a holiday in regional Victoria. If you stop in metropolitan Melbourne, it must be for one of these reasons:

to shop for food and essential goods or services to provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment permitted work or study

Household bubbles

Any household in regional Victoria can form a household bubble with another household. Up to five people from that household can visit you at your home as part of the bubble.

You can visit the household you form a bubble with at their home. Up to five people from your household can visit.

You cannot have visitors to your home who aren't in your bubble.

If you live with more than five people, or want to form a bubble with a household that is more than five people, then you can. But only five people can visit at one time, in addition to the people who normally live in the household.

You don't need to wear a face covering when your bubble visits you at home.

Babies under 12 months of age are not included in the five-person visitor cap.

If you have formed a 'single social bubble' then you can continue to see the person in your household bubble.

If the person that you have formed a single bubble with lives with other people, then you can choose to expand your bubble to the members of their household. This means that you can have up to five visitors from the household that you have formed a bubble with. You can only form a bubble with a household who lives in regional Victoria.

This is only a small amount of information that is on the DHHS website.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/social-gatherings-regional-victoria-third-step-covid-19>

DHHS has a Corona hotline phone number: **1800 675 398**. (*I found them quite helpful. PF*)