



THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS

Commentary on 1 Timothy 6:17-19 by Cedric Bridgeforth. Disciplines, in Upper Room, September 2025

There is a difference between being rich and having everything you want. There is also a difference between poverty and living within one's means. The systems and ideologies that differentiate the "haves" from the "have-nots" are at work at all times.

While on a mission immersion experience, I was introduced to the concept of a floating village with homes, stores, schools, churches, temples, and clinics. The sturdiest structures were supported by barrels, while others were more rudimentary and included plastic bottles and used tyres. As our tour boat careened through the village, those resting in their hammocks, fishing, or caring for their daily tasks were not phased by our presence. Their focus was on what they were doing. Our gaze was upon their artistry, ingenuity, tenacity, and ability to do life and make a living upon the waters.

The call for disciples to "be rich in good works" is a must for those making

life out of others' discarded goods. Those living in the shadows and out of sight rely on others within the same reality to survive. What they do or possess comes from those around them. The author of First Timothy is speaking to those who find themselves in positions of wealth and calls on them to place their trust in God and put their resources to use building up the lives of those around them.

We saw people relegated to the waters because of their station in life, national origin, or access to education and other services. It was not their lack of money or wealth that dictated their living situation. It was the wealth and riches of others in local and distant lands and the desire for more that relegated them to life on the water.

God of the have and the have-nots, may we find grace in you and compassion with one another. Amen.

'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'

Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littrass

Rev'd Shirley's mobile: **0422 567 072**

Rev'd Shirley's Email: littrass@optusnet.com.au

Authorised Lay Minister: Jennifer Zdravkovski

Jennifer's Email: jzdravkovski@melbourneanglican.org.au

Student Placement: Lwe Moo San Tay

Email: lwemoo@hotmail.com

St Stephen's Church: 42 Regent St. Belmont VIC 3216 Phone: 5243 2557

Web: www.ststephensbelmont.org.au

Email: ststephensang2@iinet.net.au



Sentence: Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

James 5.16

Collect: O God, from whom light rises in darkness for those who seek you: grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that in your light we may see light, and in your narrow path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Readings Jeremiah 8.18-9.1, Psalm 79.1-9, I Timothy 2.1-10, Luke 16.1-13

pray for those in

Need

- Peter Bufton, Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, Rosemary Inglis, Max Osborn, Keith Grigg, Pam Burrows, Tim and Dianne, Jim and Joy Durrant, Fiona, Carmel Laherty, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Dawn, Bernard Conradie and André, Debra Conradie, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Anne & Richard McCullough, Tristan Durden & Allegra Daly, Lorraine Bignoux, Mavis Palmer, Dale Price, Judith Kus & Joan Ham
- For the Dying and their Support Services.

pray for the

wider church

- For the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
- For the new Archbishop Rick Thorpe and the Diocese of Melbourne
- For the Oodthenong Episcopal Area Bishop The Rt Dr Brad Billings.
- For the Geelong Archdeaconry The Ven Stephen Pollard.
- For the incumbency committee of St Albans North Geelong as they seek a new Priest.

Pray for the

World

- For all world leaders during this time of stress and turmoil.

- The people of Afghanistan following the devastating earthquake.
- For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine.
- For the conflict between Israel and Iran
- For the Hamas to release all the remaining prisoners.
- For the countries involved in bringing a peaceful resolution between Israel and Hezbollah
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and for the people of Gaza, Israel, Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan as they face an uncertain future.
- That the cease fire between Thailand and Cambodia will continue to hold.
- For Wellspring Initiative for finances and the leadership team

pray for the

Community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past, present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, for reconciliation and for treaty.
- For those without influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For those God is calling to come to know Him
- For families struggling with the cost of living and difficulty due to rental and mortgages. increases

Cont'd on Page 6

Cont'd from page 2

Pray for

Our Church

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George
- For Jen Zradovkovski, Josh and Eloise.
- For Lwe Moo San Tay and her family during her time with us
- Please pray for the Wardens and Parish Council.
- Please pray for LyCig and Parish Council as they plan for 2025
- Please pray for all St Stephen's parishioners.
- For the Eucharist Assistants.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For all families who are travelling during the school holidays that God will protect them during their vacation.

Prayer for Growth

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth
to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in spiritual
commitment to you, in numbers,
And in service to our
local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If you are last to leave the Church, the Hall or the Meeting Room, please turn off the heaters and lights. Check that ALL doors are locked.



**Turn off
all mobile
phones**

- The Parish Profile has been given to the Bishop. There is a copy in the church and it can be read but only in the church. Do not take it home.
- The key to the Aumbry in the chapel is missing along with the gold pixel in a purple bag. If anyone knows its whereabouts, please tell Rev Shirley

What's Coming Up?

Playgroup

Resumes after the holidays.

Meditation Group

Resumes after the holidays

Prayer Group

Resumes after the holidays

House Groups

Monday Afternoon

29 Jacobs St, Belmont 2.15pm

Ph 5243 1835

Thursday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont 1.30pm

Ph 0421 017 882

Book Study

Wednesday 17th September 7pm , and

Thursday 18th September 2pm both in the meeting room.

Ladies Afternoon Tea

6th October, 1.30-3.00 in the meeting room

Pastoral Care

9th October in the meeting room

Kids Church

Resumes after the holidays

Youth Church 12th October, 9.30 am

Highway to Healing Service

Monday 13th October, 7pm

Warden's Meeting

14th October 7pm

LyCig

15th October 7pm in the meeting room

Parish Council

21st October 7pm

How Many Days Until Christmas ?

87

This is a forward notice and also a request for help.

As you know every year Messy Church is an outdoor Christmas service.

This year we want to feature our many talented young people.

If you play an instrument, whether a tambourine or drums, a triangle or a guitar, a violin or a trombone, please consider helping this year to be super special by

offering your talent for our very own Christmas Youth Orchestra.

Please contact: Jen 0408 389 159 or Alyce 0437 746 068

Girls Night Out

When: 6:30 Friday 3rd October

Where: Belmont Hotel in the
restaurant area

RSVP

Jane Moloney Ph 0439 419 694

by Sun 27th Sept

HELP WITH CLEANING

We all enjoy coming in to church every Sunday and the worship space is clean and tidy.

Sadly, there aren't little elves who come in and whizz around with the duster and vacuum cleaner.

There are a wonderful group of angels who clean every week.

If you look around, you will know quite a number of them.

However, there is a need for a few more people, (both men and women) to join our team of cleaning angels. Please contact

Jan : 0428 621 121

You will only be on the roster once every two or three months.

WELCOME

Please add to your directory

Marina & Phillip Muller

Mob: 0438 436 927

TWO LITTLE BOYS

Two little boys stole a load of apples from a neighbour's apple tree. They decided to go to a quiet place to share the lot equally. One of them suggested the nearby cemetery. As they were jumping over the gate to enter the cemetery, they dropped two apples, but they didn't bother to pick them up since they had enough.

A few minutes later, a drunk on his way from a bar, passed near the cemetery gate and heard a voice saying, "One for you, one for me. One you, one for me."

He immediately sobered up and ran as fast as he could to the church nearby, for the priest.

"Father, please come with me and hear God & Satan sharing the corpses at the cemetery."

They both ran back to the cemetery gate and the voice continued, "One for me, one for you. One for me, one for you.

One for me, one for you."

Suddenly the voice stopped counting and said "What about the two at the gate?"

You've never seen two people running so fast!

Parish Council News

- * The Games Afternoon on Saturday was fun, about 15 or so members attended for a few hours.
- * A locum has been arranged by the Bishop, to start at the end of November.
- * The collection plate to return to circulation during the service.
- * Being wary of giving cash to people who may not be genuinely in need.
- * Suggestion of using Google lens to help identify and valuable items.
- * Yvonne Fyfe has offered to do the worship service at Rice Village. We are waiting for Rice Village to get back to us with their requirements.
- * Acoustics in the hall. Tim Rowlands to meet with Fady Issa to discuss further, perhaps to be done in stages.
- * The enlarged playground looks good. Waiting for a new fence to complete the security of the area.
- * The concern of the availability of everyone's address in the Church Directory was discussed and decided that addresses will be omitted in future printings. They will be kept in the church office and handed out personally.
- * There will be a "painting" working bee to be on 24th September. This working bee is for anyone who is available and enjoys painting.
- * There are Euphorbia plants near the front gate that perhaps need to be removed as they secrete a milky substance that is irritating to the eyes, especially with children playing nearby.
- * Colin Sharp will be contacted for a quote to repair spouting and the shed door to be replaced.
- * There is an overhanging branch near the slide which might need to be trimmed.

We are on 'Zoom' every Sunday.

Here is our Zoom link for people to access our 9:30 am service if they are not able to attend live church. It will be the same Link, Meeting ID and Passcode information
Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86484911358?pwd=eDdUaU1ZsQmpoQ0wxZlJvc0pZS3VYUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 84911358

Passcode: 379683



A PRAYER FOR CHOOSING A NEW INCUMBENT

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling.

Send your Holy Spirit to give those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for

Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Readings for Next Sunday 5th October

Lamentations 1:1-6

Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

Parish Contacts

Vicar Rev'd Shirley Littras
Church Office: **5243 2557**

Mob: **0422 567 072**

Email: littras@optusnet.com.au

Authorised Lay Minister

Jennifer Zdravkovski

Email:

jzdravkovski@melbourneanglican.org.au

Jen is in the Church Office on Thursday

Student Placement

Lwe Moo San Tay

Email: lwemoo@hotmail.com

Vicar's Warden

Brett Gear **0418 717 141**

Church Warden

Peter Bufton **0448 694 204**

Tim Rowlands **0439 412 000**

Parish Treasurer

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

Prayer Ministry

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

Kid's Church

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

Playgroup

Pam Osborn **0425 729 163**

Music Ministry

Tim Rowlands **0438 412 000**

Men's Afternoon Tea

Max Osborn **5243 4122**

Girls' Night Out

Jane Moloney **0439 419 694**

Rosters

Jan Douglas **0428 621 121**

Child Safety officer and

Family Safety champion

Cassie Calder **0448 024 951**

Link Editor & Advertising

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

Key Ministry Co-ordinators Families

& Ladies Afternoon Tea

Yvonne Fyfe **5243 7183**

Pastoral Care

Jennifer Zdravkovski **0408389159**

