

Worship for Sunday 11th July 2021

from Jeanne Moore

Good Morning all I hope you are well.
I'm delighted the Bible Studies are finally going ahead and due to start on the 18th July. Brian will have more to say at the end of the worship sheet I'm sure !

It will feel good to be meeting together again.
Where two or three are gathered in my name.....

I know some of you are 'joining' me on Tuesday evenings when we pray 'together'. Knowing that makes my favourite evening very special. Thank you. See you next Tuesday.

Psalm 66: 1-2 & 8 - 12

- ¹ Shout for joy to God, all the earth!
² Sing the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.
⁸ Praise our God, all peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard;
⁹ he has preserved our lives
and kept our feet from slipping.
¹⁰ For you, God, tested us;
you refined us like silver.
¹¹ You brought us into prison
and laid burdens on our backs.
¹² You let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.

Comment.

Whilst this is a psalm of praise, the Psalmist acknowledges the struggles of the Israelites, speaking of their dependence on God. When they have been tested (v10) he says, God refined them like silver, a purifying process. (v12) They went through fire and water – they suffered but God was in their suffering with them. We are tested because we live in a flawed world. People endure suffering because people are flawed. But God is in that suffering with us He shares every step of our journey so He can bring us to (v12) a place of abundance.

We pray

Wondrous God, we thank you that you reign over all the earth.
We thank you that you part the seas of our lives, showing us paths which can set people free.
Purify our hearts, lead us through the Refiners fire, so that we can witness more and more of your goodness
and share that knowledge with all we meet. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Suggested hymn :Purify my heart

PURIFY MY HEART,

Let me be as gold
And precious silver.
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold,
Pure gold.

*Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy,
Set apart for You, Lord.
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for You, my Master,
Ready to do Your will.*

Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin,
Deep within.

Reading Luke 10 : 25 - 37: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he

said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Reflection

Our reading, the parable of the Good Samaritan was told in answer to the lawyer's question 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' to which Jesus response was 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind. Eternal life is a quality of life that comes from God alone. It can be ours. If we are prepared to love Him with ALL our heart, soul, strength and mind. Easier said than done I think, as we can be distracted on a daily basis in a variety of ways.

Jesus also said 'Love your neighbour as yourself' and goes on with the familiar illustration of the traveller who had been attacked and left for dead. There was probably a safer route for the man to get from Jerusalem to Jericho, but instead he chose the more dangerous road which was infamous for the amount of robberies and attacks which were constantly happening. So you might say the man only had himself to blame. As we know the priest and the Levite crossed the road to avoid the man. However the Samaritan immediately went to the man's rescue showing great compassion in tending to his wounds and eventually taking him to safety. He didn't think twice. It did not matter to him who the man was. He alone fulfilled Jesus' command to love thy neighbour.

It is not the case that only those who are our friends, or are easy to love, are our neighbours. Anyone can be suffering. We need to help someone who is in crisis, whoever that person is and whatever the crisis.

Isn't it the case that Jesus is the Good Samaritan to us. He finds us in a state, a crisis, and he picks us up from the miserable road we have chosen to travel on. He dresses our wounds and sets us on the right path to safety.

Friar Raniero Cantalamessa said this:

'The most important thing is not to know who my neighbour is, but to see whose neighbour I can be, here and now, for whom I can be the Good Samaritan.'

Go and do likewise! (v37)

We pray : Father God, we thank you for those who bring healing and wholeness to people whose lives are broken, for those through whom you reach out with love and compassion, who try to understand us when we feel lost, who care for us when we are hurting and who lift us when we are down. Help us never to pass by on the other side, but always to be ready to help. Amen.

Suggested hymn: *Everyone needs compassion*

EVERYONE NEEDS COMPASSION,

Love that's never failing;

Let mercy fall on me.

Everyone needs forgiveness,

The kindness of a Saviour;

The hope of nations.

Saviour,

He can move the mountains,

My God is mighty to save,

He is mighty to save.

Forever,

Author of salvation,

He rose and conquered the grave,

Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me,

All my fears and failures;

Fill my life again.

I give my life to follow

Everything I believe in;

Now I surrender.

Shine your light

And let the whole world see

We're singing for the glory

Of the risen King, Jesus.

Shine your light

And let the whole world see

We're singing for the glory

Of the risen King.

The blessing: Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Bible study and prayer

You should have all received and replied to a letter about these. If not, you must send in an app to chaplaincy straight away, though you might be too late. Meeting **in the chapel.**

Next week, A&D from 08.45 to 09.45, 25th B&C, G&H still to be finalised...in August.