

Thoughts for the Day – Wisdom on Week-days?!! (from different members of the Ministry team)

Monday 30th March - There is no-one like the Lord our God. (Exodus 8:10)

Moses, following God's call from the burning bush, is engaged in a war of attrition with Pharaoh to *Let my people go* (8:1). The plague of frogs was the second of the plagues, invoked by Moses and Aaron on God's orders, and ended by them after Pharaoh offered the Israelites their freedom. He reneged on that offer once the frogs were gone, and more plagues followed. In the midst of the Coronavirus crisis we need to hold on to the truth that *there is no-one like the Lord our God*. He knows the suffering of his people and hears our prayers. And as we come within two weeks of Good Friday and Easter, we know too that there is no-one like Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Tuesday 31st March Reading: Hebrews 11:32-12:2

This passage sums up the Christian journey more than any other. It reminds us that the Christian faith is steeped in the Jewish Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament) and that we must take heart from the great cloud of witnesses from the past. Jesus never said that this life was going to be easy. In fact, he tells us to take up our cross and follow him (Matt. 16: 24-26). What we must remind ourselves and take from this passage this morning is that although we may encounter difficulty and hardship the Lord always with us (Matt. 28:20), as he was with the great men and women of the Bible.

Wednesday 1st April Reading: Hebrews 12:3-13

'Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart'. When things go wrong it's often God who gets the blame, even from those of us who count ourselves as Christian believers. Instead when we're tempted to do just that let's pause and remember that God through His Son Jesus on the cross stands alongside us in our troubles. Let's also reflect that when we are at our most vulnerable and weakest God has the greatest chance to work within us. So in these difficult times let's pray that we may be able to hear the gentle and wise voice of the Father, urging us to follow Him more closely, to trust Him more fully, and to love Him more deeply.

Thursday 2nd April Reading: Hebrews 12:25- 28 Staying thankful in a time of shaking

Today's reading from Hebrews has several helpful points for us in this time when nothing is the same and everything we have known is being shaken up. Is God trying to get our attention in this forced isolation? Perhaps rather than thinking of it as isolation we could think of it as solitude – there's a big difference in the meanings. Henry Nouwen says: *Solitude is the furnace of transformation. Without solitude we remain victims of our society and continue to be entangled in the illusions of the false self.* Powerful words and today as we see every-thing we may have ever trusted in our lives shaken may we use sometime to sit at God's feet and wait in solitude and hear his words of comfort and strength to us. Let's be honest with where we have become self-efficient and trusted in other 'kingdoms' rather than His Kingdom. As we do this if we remember God's Kingdom *will never be shaken* and that we can trust in him for everything we need, then maybe we will find our hearts more willing and able to do what v. 28 tells us: *"be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe"*

Friday 3rd April 2020 Reading: Hebrews 13:1-16

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it..."

I have an illuminated print of this scripture passage on my office wall. It reminds me daily that God is not limited to interacting with the world in the ways we expect. The Holy Spirit is present in each and every person that we might meet, Christian or not. In these uncertain times kindness and hospitality to and from strangers seems to be in record amounts. I hope we can all appreciate this, and consider ways we can carry it on when we return to 'normality.'