

Subject: Daily Prayer 17th July 2020
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Good morning everyone

Let's be quiet and still for a few moments before we begin.....

"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Psalm 32

The Joy of Forgiveness

Of David. A Maskil.

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD',
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Selah

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
You are a hiding-place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Selah

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Matthew 12:1-8

Plucking Grain on the Sabbath

At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, 'Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.' He said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice", you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.'

Reflection

The first time that I read this passage I really did not understand what the problem was. Oh how ignorant I was (and I am still learning!). The Jews have many laws which they have to abide by and these are clearly set out in the first five books of the Bible. One of the laws is that no work can be done on the Sabbath which in Jewish faith is Saturday. I remember when we were in Israel there were special gadgets on the lifts because to press a button for the lift to move is classed as working. Jesus was being trapped by the Pharisees in a similar way because the disciples were picking ears of grain to eat on the Sabbath and hence working. They couldn't be accused of stealing because the farmers planted some seed at the side of the field so that the poor people could eat. So in fact the disciples were not stealing but were working. However Jesus quotes three other bible passages and states that 'I desire mercy not sacrifice'

Mercy is a great gift. It is a gift when we receive mercy from Jesus, however, it also is a great gift when we are gifted with mercy from another person. Do you remember a time in your when someone was merciful or compassionate with you? They may have been kind and understanding even if you did not deserve it..... Jesus always encourages us to do what is loving, kind, and sensible. Law is important and essential; however, if we are not careful, we may make the law our god. And this is not the God that Jesus wants us to worship. For Jesus, the law of love always the most important. Today, may the law of love be foremost in our lives. Let us reflect the love which Jesus shows to us - and remember to rest on the Sabbath!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN

Blessed are you Lord God,
for you have created us in your own image:
you have called us to reflect your love and your forgiveness to all.
You give us power to share in your grace.
AMEN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. AMEN

Blessings and love
Until tomorrow
Vicky x