

Subject: Daily Prayer 25th July 2020
From: Vicky Pacey <vickyreadersapp@gmail.com>
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To: Vicky Pacey <vickyreadersapp@gmail.com>
BCC: kjgreenall@gmail.com

Good morning all

Let's take a few moments to quieten our minds and bodies before we begin.....

Today is the feast of James the Apostle

Blessed are you Lord our God, for you have created us out of your love and for your love. We know that we abide in you and that you are in us. As you are in us, help us to love one another. In Jesus name. AMEN

Psalm 126

A Harvest of Joy

A Song of Ascents.
When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The LORD has done great things for them.'
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Matthew 20:20-28

The Request of the Mother of James and John

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to

them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

Reflection

There is almost an inbuilt desire within humans for acclaim, recognition and appreciation. All of these gifts are fine and good in moderation. However, people who received abundant acclaim or praise also might be tempted to develop a big ego. Jesus desires that his disciples be humble. Humility does not mean groveling or demeaning yourself. Our humility may develop as we realise that we are far from perfect. As we realise this, we can be angry or we can use our difficult and painful experiences to develop our characters and maybe become more fruitful in our lives. If we truly are humble, we will serve others, share our resources and be content. We will not need to be the "first." Nor will we need "acclaim." Humility does not ask us to demean ourselves. Humility requires that we simply be who we are and share who we are with the people in our lives. God has granted each of us different gifts and we should share our gifts, love and attention with others. We should be the reflection of God, not seeking acclaim for ourselves but reflecting His love to others.

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. AMEN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. AMEN

Blessings and love
Until tomorrow
Vicky x