

Reflection for Bible Sunday

One thing we know about Jesus is that he held the Jewish scriptures, the Law and the Prophets, in high regard, quoting from them constantly in his teaching. However, He did not agree with much of the interpretation put upon them by the religious authorities of the day. Indeed, on occasions he actually disputed some of the teaching in them. Leviticus rules retaliation for injury in like kind, but Jesus changes that in the Sermon on the Mount, saying, "You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;" Nehemiah states that the scriptures were read from the law of God 'with interpretation.' That is what teaching and preaching is about; not necessarily taking every word at face value. Different interpretations and different translations can put varying slants on Bible passages. God's word needs to be read with thought and prayer, to be interpreted for our day.



Phil Baker

Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 4th October to the end of November:

Meeting ID: 865 5823 0026

Passcode: 504187

Telephone numbers: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 01.11 20 All Saints Day

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom & 12 noon Mass in Church

READINGS

OT Revelation 7: 9-11

NT 1 John 3: 1-3

Gospel Matthew 5: 1-12



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 25th October 2020

Bible Sunday (Trinity 20)

10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon Mass in Church

Continuing our series about saints (just before All Saints Day) 28 October is the feast of the apostles Saints **Simon and Jude**, named by Matthew, Mark and Luke in the group of twelve. Simon, also known as the Zealot, probably belonged to a nationalist resistance movement opposed to Roman occupation, and Jude, also known as Thaddaeus, is not the same as Judas Iscariot. Perhaps to avoid this confusion, people invoked his name as a last resort, hence his association with lost causes.

Lord God, you taught us to call upon your name through the preaching of the apostles. At the intercession of Saint Simon and Saint Jude, may your Church continue to grow in the number of believers; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Arrangements for **All Souls Day** (2 November) will be notified next week. We will be reading aloud the 2019 list of names, plus the names of those whose funerals have been associated with the parish in the intervening months. Additional names to Revd Sarah or Ian please by phone or email. *Fr David*



Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Nehemiah 8: 1- 4a (5-6) 8-12

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people

wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Colossians 3: 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Matthew 24: 30-35

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at

the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Post Communion

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon **not** Thursdays. Please continue to be generous. Note that the collecting point will now be in the **church tower**, not in the hall.

Knit and Natter 30th September to Christmas

We shall be meeting, on Wednesdays at the usual time 10.30 to 12 midday in the Church Hall. Contact Jenny on 01392 498725 for details.

Ian Totterdell is running the **Hospiscare Marathon in a Month** during October. Details to follow.

Wanted If anyone has any spare bulbs they don't need or any plants e.g., pansies, cyclamen or polyanthus would they kindly give them to Pat Mounce who will plant them in the front garden of the Church.

Craft Challenge. Be prepared to display your wonderful creations on 1 November 12-2. More detail to follow.

