

Monday 24th April 2023

Psalm 119 v 67, 71

Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
but now I obey your word.  
It was good for me to be afflicted  
so that I might learn your decrees.

Life can sometimes seem quite unfair. The psalmist in this verse is explaining that before he experienced a difficult situation, where he turned to God, he had gone astray. Perhaps not intentionally rather giving in to temptations. However through these self inflicted difficulties, he had been compelled to turn to God for assistance. On receiving God's peace he realised the error of his ways and committed once again to adhere to the way God wanted him to live, in complete harmony with him.

Tuesday 25th April 2023

Matthew Ch 6 v 33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Sometimes Jesus' words are misconstrued, as in today's reading, a key verse in his teaching. It doesn't mean we can expect endless material things if we his followers seek him first.

We have to remind ourselves of the context of the previous verses. In these Jesus had been instructing his followers not to constantly worry about the basic needs of their lives in this instance food and clothing.

Christians should prioritise living according to the principles Jesus has been teaching and leave it to God to take care of the basic needs of our lives.

Wednesday 26th April 2023

Matthew 11 v 28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

These words are an invitation from Jesus to those who are wearied and weighed down, beset with worries and issues, to share them in prayer and find rest and peace.

Thursday 27th April 2023

Jeremiah Ch 18 v 2-4

Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

If the potter finds a fault in the clay he is using he must remake the pot as failure to do so could cause a crack or when colours added smears appear which cannot blend perfectly. Knowing his craft he would start again to remake it into a beautiful pot attractive to customers and serve well whoever purchases it.

In the same way God knows each one of us, he did create us and knows how to shape us into who he created us to be. We may be sent tests and trials to prepare us for future situations where we will be best prepared to deal with them. The process can be lengthy sometimes painful but if we submit to God's ways we will be amazed at what we can achieve.

Friday 28th April 2023

Matthew Ch 8 v 26

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

To escape the crowds and get some rest Jesus and the disciples got into a boat to sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Experienced sailors, the disciples would have been well aware the Sea of Galilee was notorious for its sudden storms.

While Jesus was sleeping a sudden and violent storm sprung up, with waves pouring into the boat and the boat tossed about violently. The fishermen were in fear for their lives.

They wake Jesus up and cry out to him to save them. In replying he asks why they have so little faith. He immediately stops the storm dead with a command to the wind and the waves. Astonished at the winds and waves obeying his command they wondered what kind of man they were following.

They had little knowledge at this stage of the Kingdom of God nor had they grasped the fact Jesus was the Messiah and would lead them to eternal life.

Saturday 29th April 2023

1 Peter Ch 1 v 21

Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

A self made millionaire changed forever the lives of a sixth grade class in East Harlem through a simple act of hope. Asked to speak to a class of 59 students he scrapped his intended speech and spoke instead from his heart. "Stay in school" he said "and I'll help pay the college tuition for everyone of you".

His words had an impact for years to come.

In a time and a place where few students graduated from High School nearly 90% of that class went on to attend and graduate from college.

Hope is powerful, when we create hope and share it with others we create a brighter future for them and us. Hope changes lives.