

Second in our series of special issues written by men about men and masculinity

Worth the cost

Andrew Lyon *reflects on* Exodus 32:7-14; Jeremiah 4:11-12. 22-28 and 1 Timothy 1:12-17

If making a commitment to follow the Lord is costly, that becomes most apparent when times get tough: in short, we become less certain about it. Following Jesus is more costly the closer he gets to the cross. And the temptations that have always beset us do not suddenly cease to plague us simply because we have made a commitment.

Today's Old Testament readings are, typically, a little bit frightening. In Exodus, Moses seemingly has to remonstrate in order to avoid God's wrath being poured down upon the people who have gone astray. To be fair, Moses had been up the mountain a long time. The

people must have thought that was the last they would ever see of him and, being left alone, they invented a god of their own imagining, to whom they could offer their sacrifices.

Luckily, we live under the new covenant, and St Paul can be our example: "I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy". God does not wait to punish us when we go astray, but to pour grace upon us. Like Jesus' parables of the lost sheep or the lost coin, God waits to rejoice with all of heaven when we repent. 🍷

John Coleridge Patteson

Bishop John Coleridge Patteson (1827-1871) is commemorated on Friday. Julian Smith looks at his life and legacy.

Ordained in 1853, Patteson volunteered for the New Zealand-based Melanesian Mission, arriving in Auckland in 1855. He taught in the mission school and visited the islands regularly, learning many of the island languages.

Consecrated bishop in 1861, he spent some months each year living among the islanders, with whom he developed a strong rapport and to whom he was devoted. Patteson's involvement in the anti-slavery movement led to his murder whilst on a pastoral visit to one of the islands.

Although Patteson came from a comfortable, well-connected family and was an old Etonian, he was no caricature of a Victorian missionary. He was ahead of his time. He insisted that classes be taught in a native language, that Christianity must adapt to Melanesian culture and that missionaries should avoid "making English Christians of our converts". 🍷



Have mercy upon me and give me your strength, O Lord, for I am weak, liable to fall away and deny you. Guide me back to you when I have wandered off on my own path. Call me back and welcome me into your fold. Amen.

Men and masculinity in the Bible

Trevor Dennis continues his series with the stories of Esau, Joseph and Jonathan.

The Bible never speaks with one voice. The book that speaks of Cain and Lamech also tells of Esau running to embrace the brother who once stole his birthright. Esau cares nothing about the past and the wrongs he has suffered. He has his

brother Jacob back and that's enough. His forgiveness and magnanimity are stunning. So is Joseph's, when his brothers, who once sold him into slavery, are confronted by him and offer to become his slaves. "Do not be afraid!" he cries. "Am I in the place of God?" Then in 1 Samuel we find Jonathan, the son of the mentally unstable king, Saul, who loved David "as his own soul". His devotion to David means he puts his own life at risk to save him from his father, and even surrenders his claim to the throne. In these stories we see expressions of masculinity that are truly inspiring. 🍷

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), former slave, American social reformer, abolitionist and statesman

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish
Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449
Locum Minister Rev Martin Prentice **Session Clerk:** Nicol
811242

There is a loop system. Adjust hearing aids to benefit.
A warm invitation is extended to everyone to meet in the hall at the back of the church, after the service, for a cup of tea.

Intimations

Monday – 7pm - Session Meeting in the kirk hall

Tuesday - 8pm – Choir in the kirk hall

Thursday – 10am – 12noon Community Café in the kirk hall

Readings:

1 Corinthians 12; 4-11

Galatians 5:6, 13-14

Hymns

Hymn 129 The Lord is King!

Hymn 268 O God of Bethel.

Hymn 535 Who would true valour see

Hymn 182 Now thank we all our Go

Hymn: 185 Come children join to sing

Doxology Hymn 786

May the God of peace go with us, as we travel from this place

May the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace.