

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 25th October, Last Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18

Psalm: Psalm 1

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-46.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

 0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Reflection on the Gospel reading:

The very Word of God, the divine *Logos* from before all the ages that had been and were to come, was there standing before his wily opponents the Pharisees, desiring to give them his all-conquering love, and yet there were among them those who were simply interested in scoring points against him and against each other. As we reflect on the story as Matthew tells it, it is just possible that this same Word of God is standing right in front of us as individuals in our daily lives and it is just possible that we too are missing him because we too are caught up in some silly games of our own. It remains as a truism that we might want to gaze on this scene and look with compassion at the Sadducees and Pharisees. It might be more of a blessing still if we can catch sight of ourselves among them.

At another time Jesus was asked, 'Who is my neighbour?' On that occasion he told what was to become the story of the Good Samaritan. In that parable, that lived out encounter with the divine, Jesus expands the meaning of neighbour to include everyone in need. His understanding of 'neighbour' is as broad and deep as God – and with such an accomplished understanding he is able to unite the two commandments. It is too easy an answer to say that the greatest commandment is to love God. The real insight of Jesus in the reading today is in fact to unite the two loves of life - God and others - into one all-encompassing law of love. The gospel today centres the message of Jesus on love; on two loves united in each of us. Love God, love the neighbour - this is the only commandment which Jesus appears to make. Without this dualism, all we say we do for him is really done only for ourselves. No detail of religious observance is above this law of love. Jesus said this and lived it in his life and he asks us to do the same.

So then, we may come to see that the message of Jesus is an all-embracing one and covers all our relationships, both the close relationships of family and friendship, as well as the unending call to love the wider world, particularly where the needs are greatest. Jesus showed that love to its greatest extent – he loved to the point of death. Yes, the life and death of Jesus is a self-sacrificing love; without a deep inner welcoming of this love, our faith cannot be understood. *Adapted from <https://www.sacredspace.ie/scripture/matthew-2234-40>*

Harvest collect Last Sunday after Trinity:

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.

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1, 1.15pm