

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: 13th Feb 2022, 3rd Sunday before Lent

Old Testament: Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Psalm: Psalm 1

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Gospel: Luke 6: 17-26

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Ven Patrick Evans

Luke brings us Jesus' sermon on the plain with echoes of Matthew's sermon on the mount. [Matthew Ch 5]. Do take the opportunity to read this as well. Both so called sermons are in fact a gathering of a collection of sayings attributed to Jesus

These 'sermons' are not Law but Gospel. Law leaves us to rely on our own strength and challenges us to do our utmost to follow the rules. The Gospel brings the gift of God first and invites us to make this gift the basis for living. The gift of God precedes the invitation and that is why it is more helpful to speak of lived faith.

These sayings are not intended to lay a legal yoke upon the disciples neither in the sense of saying 'you must do all of this in order that you may be blessed [the perfectionist]; nor in the sense 'you actually ought to have done all this, see what poor creature you are'[the theory of the impossible ideal]; nor in the sense 'now pull yourself together; the final victory is at hand'[the interim ethic, to get a last minute grip on behaviour]. No, the sayings sketch out the lived faith.....you are loved, forgiven, accepted. You matter, I am with you. They give us a sense of direction about the character of Kingdom living and we find echoes of the Magnificat.

Here and through his ministry Jesus refuses to legislate and instead we have stories, parables, sayings pungent and memorable, which engage us and from which we learn that faith is as much about questions as answers

collect for the 3rd Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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.



Worship to enjoy at home

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