

St Peter's Church, Wanneroo

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

October 9th - October 23rd, 2022

The Bible readings at our services for the Sundays from October until Christmas are the readings set in the Australian Anglican Lectionary. As is usual at St Peter's, all four passages of scripture will be read at the 7.45am services, whilst only two of the passages will be read at the 9.30am service. The passages to be read at the 9.30am service are shown in italics in the notes for each week—but, please read all four passages!

These notes are not intended to be a set of full Bible study notes for home groups, but hopefully will provide a basic framework for looking at the scriptures prior to each Sunday's services.

Questions and quotes are taken from:

- ◇ Wright, Tom (2012). *Twelve Months of Sundays*. London:SPCK.
- ◇ Wright, Tom (2001). *Luke for Everyone*. London:SPCK
- ◇ Bock, D.L. (1994). *Luke: IVP Commentary Series*. IVP:Leicester.

Sunday 9th October

Theme: Praising God for His goodness

Sermon: Luke 17:11-19 ~ Thanking God

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-9

Psalm 66:1-11

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Luke 17:11-19

Read Jeremiah 29:1, 4-9

Try to put yourself in the shoes of those carried off into exile. How might they have reacted to Jeremiah's letter?

Does this ancient letter have any relevance to the problems we face as Christians in today's in today's world?

Read Psalm 66:1-12 and 2 Timothy 2:8-13

The psalmist praises God, but his praise flows from what God has done for his people - vv.3, 5-6. Looking to the past gives encouragement for the present, despite difficulties that might be making life hard (vv.10-12).

In 2 Timothy, Paul seems to be following the same principle: he is in a desperate situation (v.9), but he finds strength in looking back at what God has done (v.8), and this gives him hope for the future (vv.10-13).

How do you see this operating in your life as a Christian?

you see links between Paul's experience and the passages from Joel and Psalm 65?

Read Luke 18:15-30

There is a remarkable contrast between the pictures given in these two parables.

In the first we have the innocence of young children: "Jesus sees to the heart of what it means to receive God's kingdom; it is like drinking in one's mother's milk, like learning to see—and to smile!—by looking into one's mother's eyes and face."

In the second, we have a rich and influential man, who appears to regard himself as meeting all God's requirements; but when he hears Jesus speak, he seems to be aware of something lacking in his life.

What do these parables tell us about what is, and what is not, required to enter the Kingdom of God?

What is the equivalent for us, today and in our world, of the demand Jesus made of the rich ruler?

For reflection

Are there ways in which we like the rich ruler - perhaps in ways we don't easily recognize or want to recognize? If so, what can we do about that?

Sunday 23rd October

Theme: Entering the kingdom - dependence on Jesus.
Sermon: Luke 18:15-30 ~ Entering the Kingdom

Joel 2:23 - 32

Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6 - 8, 16 - 18

Luke 18:15 - 30

Read Joel 2:23-32

The second part of this passage from the prophet Joel, vv.28-32, is well known; it contains wonderful promises which are fulfilled in the person of Jesus and in the gift of the Holy Spirit. But what do vv.23-27 tell us about God and about the promises he makes to his people?

Read Psalm 65

The psalmist writes of God answering prayer and forgiving sins (vv.2-3), but then goes on to describe the God who does this for his people. What do vv.4-13 tell us about God? Do you see any link with Joel 2:23-32?

Read 2 Timothy 4:6, 16-18

What is Paul telling us about God in these verses? Do

Read Luke 17:11-19

The way that this story is told implies that 9 of the 10 lepers who were healed were Jews and one was a Samaritan, a gentile. Leprosy was a terrible disease resulting in exclusion from society, and so to be miraculously healed would have been, to use a modern phrase, truly awesome - no wonder the Samaritan who was healed was 'praising God in a loud voice'!

We can read this story in two ways:

- ◆ It is a story about being thankful. How thankful are we for the ways in which God acts in our lives, for the ways in which our prayers are answered? Do we 'praise God with a loud voice'?
- ◆ It is also a story about the attitude of Jesus to those who are 'outsiders', as a Samaritan was to the Jews of Jesus' day. How do you understand what Jesus said to the Samaritan: 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well'? How could you respond differently to 'outsiders'?

For reflection

The theme for this Sunday's service is 'Praising God for His goodness'. We are living in uncertain times - the Covid pandemic, the war in Ukraine, economic problems, and concern about our relationship with China - and this causes many people to feel anxious.

- ◆ What can *you* give thanks to God for?
- ◆ How does giving thanks impact on any anxiety you might feel?
- ◆ How does your thankfulness to God shape your prayers for others and for the situations that cause you anxiety?

Sunday 16th October

Theme: Parables about persistence and humility in prayer.

Sermon: Luke 18:1-14 ~ Parables about prayer

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 119:97-104

2Timothy 3:10 - 4:5

Luke 18:1-14

Read Jeremiah 31:27-34

“The phrase ‘the days are surely coming’ (v.27, 31), . . . implies something that will rise above the ordinary and the familiar. . . . Not just any future; (but) a future of hope and meaning, brimming with promise.”

In what ways does God’s promised future give you hope and strength when you consider the injustice and suffering so often visible in the world today?

Read Psalm 119.97-104

Psalm 119, the longest of the Psalms, is centred on God’s teaching. What does this passage of the Psalm say about God’s teaching? Are there lessons for you to reflect on for your own journey as a disciple of Jesus?

Read 2 Timothy 3:10 - 4:5

What links do you see between the passage from Psalm 119 set for today and this passage from Paul’s letter to Timothy?

How are persistence and humility seen in what Paul writes?

Read Luke 18:1-14

The parable of the persistent widow can be confusing if we see the figure of the judge as representing God - but he doesn’t! The focus is on the widow, and her persistence in the face of injustice. How does persistence fit in with faith, with trust? Does God need to be ‘talked into’ helping us by our persistent prayer? Are there lessons for us from this parable?

In vv.9-14, how do you think the tax collector’s understanding of God was different from the understanding the Pharisee had?

What do you understand ‘humble’ to mean In the second part of v.14, ?

For reflection

In your own Christian life - in your prayers, and in your thinking about God - how do persistence and faith fit together? Can you give any examples?