

Reflection on Mark 3: 20-35

Today's Gospel reading is one of the key bible passages that drives the work of Single Friendly Church Network - we are the family of God.

Please consider this other bible verse as you reflect on today's reading:

Ephesians 1: 5: "He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will."

It is important to remember and celebrate that we are from diverse households when we are thinking about our parish and the community around us e.g. Never married, dating, married, separated, single parent, divorced, widowed, single in church and single in practice.

Please pray for the work of Single Friendly Church Network across the UK and for people at all ages and stages of life who are benefitting from their campaign work.

For more information: <https://www.singlefriendlychurch.com/>

To watch our film: <https://www.youtube.com/singlefriendlychurch>

Liz Dunbar—Pioneer Community Worker



NEXT SUNDAY 16.06.2024 Trinity 3
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Ezekiel 17: 22-24
NT 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 (11-13) 14-17
GOSPEL Mark 4: 26-34



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

9th June 2024

2nd Sunday after Trinity

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

82 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

60 Bind us together Lord

501 There's a wideness in God's mercy

Wednesday 12th June

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 13th June

9.30 –11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12 noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

Friday 14th June

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth; send our Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now for ever. **Amen**

Genesis 3: 8-15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

2 Corinthians 4: 13 5:1

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and

more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Mark 3: 20-35

Then Jesus entered a house, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. 'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'—for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.' Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my broth-

ers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

Post Communion

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the Church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

Summer walks Call out for help for summer project of community, reflective walks of hope! We're looking for people with IT, graphic design or project coordination skills to help produce walk leaflets and online content. Please call/text Ian's mobile, or email: jenifertuckett@gmail.com or pioneersthomas@gmail.com

Parish Website We are looking for a small team of people who would be prepared to write something occasionally for this Blog. Please speak to one of the staff team.

House Group meets on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays of each month at Helen's house. The group will be studying the Acts of the Apostles. New members are welcome. For information please see Ian or Helen.

As you know the **General Election** has been called for 4th July 2024. If you have not registered to vote the last date is 18th June. The last date for a postal vote is 19th June and the last date for a proxy vote is 26th June. Photo ID is required.

We thank the sidespeople for volunteering to stand again. New people are always welcome. A list of duties is available and is posted on the notice-board.