

Reflection for Trinity 18

When I am teaching, I often challenge the children to ask questions about a story, for instance: what would you like to ask each character?

What would you like to find out? What other stories might you have heard with similar themes or outcomes?

Here are a couple of my questions as I read today's Gospel reading. Some I will answer and others I'll leave open ended.

The reading starts with the word 'then' so what has come before? This parable sits within a longer section of Jesus' teaching. The NIV Bible translation gives the title 'Sin, Faith and Duty'. Jesus has just healed the ten men with leprosy, as we heard last week, and has spoken about the coming of the kingdom of God.

What is the purpose of this parable?

We are introduced to a Judge who neither fears God nor has respect for people. His job title is all we are told about him and yet he doesn't seem to fulfil this role. What problems might this cause? Although the widow is poor and powerless, she raises her voice in protest, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'
Who might be crying these words today?

What do you think about the judge's statement? How can you summarise Jesus's message here in ten words? What questions would you like to ask?

Rev'd Sarah



SUNDAY 30th OCTOBER

We will be celebrating:

ALL SAINTS at 10.30am

ALL SOULS at 4pm followed by refreshments in the Hall.

NEXT SUNDAY 23.10.2022 Bible Sunday

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church

READINGS: OT Isaiah 45: 22-25
NT Romans 15: 1-6
GOSPEL Luke 4: 16-24



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St Thomas, Exeter

16th October 2022

Trinity 18

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist.

Hymns for today

193 Hail to the Lord's anointed.

316 Lord, teach us how to pray aright.

363 O God beyond all praising.

Tuesday 18th October

7.30pm House Group. See Ian for details.

Wednesday 19th October

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 20th October

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30am Knit & Natter. See notices.

Friday 21st October

9.30am Morning Prayer.

10am Staff Meeting.



Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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. **Amen**

Genesis 32: 22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

2 Timothy 3: 14-end 4: 1-5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for train-

ing in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Luke 18: 1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." 'And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

Post Communion

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high.

Knit and Natter. From now on through autumn and winter the group will meet at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10-11am. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

House Group Fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for zoom details.

All Souls We are compiling a new list this year. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please add their name(s) to the list at the back of the church.

Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you to everyone who helped, in any way, to make it a success. The total raised was £222.00. Pat Metford.

We welcome back Fr David on 23rd October. Refreshments will be served after the service.

