

Reflection for Lent 2 (Mark 8.31-38)

Telemachus was a monk who became a hermit in the 4th Century. One day he realised that living in isolation, praying and fasting, whilst very pious, was in fact a selfish love of God. He realised that to serve God he must serve God's children, his fellow beings. The cities were full of sin and need, not the desert.

Rome had by this time become Christian and persecution had stopped but the gladiatorial games still existed, and those enemies captured in war were still being made to fight each other to the death in the arena to entertain the people. Telemachus realised how wrong this was. Men for whom Christ had died were killing each other. So he found his way into the arena and stood between the gladiators who then fighting stopped momentarily but the crowd shouted 'let the games go on' and he was pushed aside but he came between them again in his hermit's robes. The crowd were in uproar and a gladiator killed him with one stroke of his sword. The holy man lay dead and the crowd went silent with shock. The games ended abruptly that day and never were held again. Gibbon, the 18th C historian, said of him that his death was of more use to humanity than his life. He saved many lives by dying himself.

Some Christians seem to have 'me and Jesus' faith which tends to be too self-centred. Jesus' commandment to us is to love God and love our neighbour. We all need to ask ourselves whether we are outgoing enough in showing God's love to others in our own lives. Hopefully we don't have to go as far as Telemachus did, but Jesus teaches that our lives are there to serve God, not ourselves.

Phil Baker

WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL



THURSDAY 3-5PM

Free refreshments in a warm space

NEXT SUNDAY 03.03.2024 Third Sunday of Lent
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Exodus 20: 1-17
NT 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25
GOSPEL John 2: 13-22



CONTACT US

Fr David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net
Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com
Revd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com
Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org
Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com
Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com
Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net
Liz Pioneer Community Worker
pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter
Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk
Twitter: @sttexeter
Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

25th February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

10.30am in Hall

Today

10.30am in the Hall

Hymn Numbers

235 I, Lord of sea and sky
465 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said
372 O Jesus, I have promised

Tuesday 27th February

7.30pm House Group

Wednesday 28th February

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

2-4pm Young at Hearts

Thursday 29th February

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12.30pm Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 1st March

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

11.30am Stations of the Cross



Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15, 16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous'. Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Romans 4: 13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, nei-

ther is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8: 31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save

it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Responses to Intercessions

Sing and give thanks to the Lord
For all his wonderful works

Post Communion

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Lent Reflection Activity we will be returning to the St Thomas History Time-line after the Eucharist on Sunday mornings. Please bring your memories, ideas and inspirations.

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

House Group will meet weekly from 13th February until Easter in either Helen or John's house. Details from Mic, John or Ian.

Hall Committee Meeting Sunday 3rd March at 12noon.

World Women's Day of Prayer Advance warning 1st March, prepared by Palestinian women.

There will be a **Sunday Evensong** from 18th February until 17th March at 5pm. Zoom codes:

Meeting ID: 863 2592 5604 Passcode: 645534

Tel Nos: 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196,