

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 146

Sunday 13th February 2022

‘Virtually Church but with some way to go...’

Welcome

Welcome to this Sunday’s edition of Cutting Edge Camelot.

Scripture Passages

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Luke 6: 17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Reflection

I wonder how many of you have found yourselves in a situation where you have suddenly seen something from a completely different perspective? Sometimes, this kind of experience occurs when we hear someone share their thoughts or feelings about something, and we suddenly see things in a new light. Or it might come about when we see a familiar view from a different position; from the top of a hill or while coming from a different direction, for example.

This got me thinking about our Bible passage from Luke, which at first sight, *seems* to offer a bit of an upside-down way of thinking about things. Though as is often the way, it turns out that it is actually *us* who is seeing things upside-down, and Jesus who is seeing things the right-way-up.

In our passage from Luke, we need to pay careful attention to not only *what* Jesus is saying, but *who* he is saying it to. We are told that Jesus is surrounded by a crowd of his disciples as well as a great multitude of people, some of whom are from as far away as Tyre and Sidon – which are about 50 miles from the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus is. So those listening to Jesus are a mix; there are his disciples, who have already committed to follow him and who may have left livelihoods, homes and families. But a lot of other people are also there, who may have still had their doubts about Jesus. We are told that Jesus looks up at his *disciples* and speaks directly to *them*.

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you,
revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in

that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.”

Jesus is not saying that being poor or hungry, or weeping, or being hated, excluded, reviled or defamed are good things in and of themselves. However, he is saying that those people who find themselves poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, reviled or defamed as result of following **him** are blessed. They are blessed because they have realized that life is not about chasing after wealth, status or power, or filling your life with things that may offer momentary happiness or satisfaction, but are fleeting. People who pursue these things may well get them, but that is ultimately all they will get. As we hear in verse 24, “for you have received your consolation” or “your comfort in full”. In other words, what you have now is all you’ll ever get. Jesus calls ‘blessed’ those who have recognized this and have chosen instead to put their trust in him.

In our passage from Jeremiah, we also hear the use of the term ‘blessed’. Verse seven says, ‘Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord’. Jeremiah is emphasizing the importance of trusting in the Lord by essentially repeating the same phrase in slightly different words: Blessed are those who trust *in* the Lord. Blessed are those whose trust *is* the Lord. But what does it mean to be blessed?

Some translations of this passage replace the word ‘blessed’ with ‘happy’. So, ‘happy are you who are poor’. Alternatively, we might say to be ‘blessed’ is to be ‘content’ or ‘joyful’ or ‘favoured’. None of these are words we would generally associate with the state of being poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, reviled or defamed. But this because this sense of being blessed is not based on our current circumstances – which can change in the blink of an eye – but based on our knowledge of the one in whom we put our trust. To trust in the Lord is to trust in the one who was willing to give up his life in order that we might live. The one who came not to be served, but to serve.

We began by thinking about those times when we might have suddenly seen something from a completely different perspective; when things that had been upside-down were turned right-way-up. Jesus invites us to embrace a way of life that begins by putting our trust in Him; from a worldly perspective, this might look upside-down, but ultimately, putting our trust in Jesus leads us to see things the right-way-up. As we read in Jeremiah:

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Anna

Points for Prayers

- To place our trust in the Lord and to see things the right way up
- Resolution to tensions between Russia and the Ukraine
- Continued thanksgiving for the care, skill and courage of NHS workers and that they will not be overwhelmed by the demands on them in the winter period
- Those whom we know who are facing illnesses of all kinds and have recently been bereaved
- Impact of energy prices on poorest and most vulnerable
- Our curate Anna and her family as they prepare for their move to Cornwall
- Bishop Ruth and the rest of the Diocesan staff as they take on additional responsibility in this vacancy in See

- For the choice of a new Bishop, someone who shares God's heart for this Diocese
- For Elliscombe House in Higher Holton now reopened and for its first residents
- For North Cadbury Church School and other local schools
- Prayers and thanksgiving for contributions to the foodbanks and for those helping to take these to the foodbanks.

Hymn

A well known hymn speaking of trust in Jesus is 'Trust and obey, for there's no other way.'

Services for February

Sunday 13 th February	9.30 am Communion, Galhampton
Sunday 13 th February	9.30 am Communion, North Cheriton
Sunday 13 th February	9.30 am Matins, Blackford
Sunday 13 th February	11.00 am Sunday Worship, Holton
Sunday 20 th February	9.30 am Communion, Compton Pauncefoot
Sunday 20 th February	11.00 am Communion, Maperton
Sunday 20 th February	11.00 am Sunday Worship, North Cadbury
Sunday 20 th February	4.00 pm Evensong, Yarlington
Sunday 27 th February	8.00 am Communion, Blackford
Sunday 27 th February	9.30 am Communion, South Cadbury
Sunday 27 th February	9.30 am Matins, Compton Pauncefoot
Sunday 27 th February	9.30 am Morning Worship, North Cheriton
Sunday 27 th February	11.00 am Communion, North Cadbury

Sunday 27 th February	11.00 am Communion, Holton
Sunday 27 th February	11.00 am Sunday Worship, Yarlington
Sunday 27 th February	4.00 pm Evening Service, Galhampton

Excalibur

Excalibur is back in paper form. It contains details of Camelot people, a record of baptisms, weddings and funerals undertaken through the church in the Camelot Parishes. The February edition of Excalibur has now been published online at camelotparishes.co.uk.

The Parish Office

If Rob is not in the Office during normal office hours please contact him via email (office@camelotparishes.org.uk) or on 01749 850934.

Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family

*We pray that 'we might live in love,
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us'*

(Ephesians 5:2)