



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER No. 26

21st September, 2020

Sunday Sermon: Total Trust

Continuing the theme of *aspects of end-time faith*, as found in Luke 18, this week's episode is the familiar story of Jesus welcoming the children who were brought to him to be blessed. It is a story that can teach us the positives of faith in these days of growing uncertainty and the resurgence of fear.

Sandwiched between the story of the self-righteous Pharisee, who trusted in his religion, and the rich young man, who boasted of his wealth, it focuses on how we can be prepared for entry to the Kingdom. Rather than warn against hindrances to faith, reflecting on this incident promotes an attitude that can enhance living faith.

The clear message arising out of this real incident is that anyone who does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never, ever, enter it. The concern of the church is that all will gain a place in the Kingdom through simple, child-like faith. The secret of that is receptivity, open acceptance which is embraced with joy and gladness in total, unquestioning, trust. If that applies to children's behaviour towards parents and adults, then there are grounds for greater trust in a benevolent Heavenly Father, for:

They that trust Him wholly,
Find Him wholly true.

More Lockdown Reflections

Over these months several folks have shared their experiences with us. They have been a blessing. Here are two more thoughts that have come during this period of enforced lockdown.

Laraine Gourley shares: *While listening to someone on TV, reading about someone, being introduced to someone or just looking at someone -- do we sometimes have pre-conceived ideas about their character or misjudge them? That is classic human behaviour. Yet the Bible says: "Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16: 7)*

And Donald and Christine Crosbie share: *The Covid 19 pandemic has been for many a time of anguish, separation and isolation. But God has not forgotten His people. An old chorus we sing at Maryhill says:-*

*He's always there when things go wrong
He's always there when hope is gone
He lifts me up when I'm in prayer
He's never gone.
When I'm alone God's always there.*

When doubts arise and fear eats away at us it's good to remember that God has promised in his word to never leave us or forsake us. Even in our darkest moments He is with us. Trust in Him and He will surely see you through. God is still in control.

Church Matters

Communion. On Sunday 12th September we had our first celebration of the Lord's Supper since we were able to start holding services again in the building. The Elders will be reviewing Communion going forward and will publish their plans for the future at next Sunday's services and in the Newsletter.

The Future. In relation to Church services, prayer meetings and Bible Studies, together with other Church activities, the future remains uncertain as to when and if we return to normal. At our Sunday services we do have capacity to enable more people to come and it is possible to join other meetings by Zoom or Telephone. If you have not been part of any of the meetings listed we would ask you to consider this matter due to the uncertain future. God has been good to us in all the meetings we have held so far and also visitors have joined with us. Zoom access: Prayer meeting ID: 819 2022 9424; Passcode 047533. Bible Study ID: 899 8445 3732; Passcode: 005502

Sunday School. We were pleased that Sunday School restarted on 13th September and is now being led by Catriona Macdonald. We give thanks to God for this provision.

Thank you. We wish to place on record our thanks to Ibbie Simpson and Mary Linton for their leading of the Sunday School in the past. Laraine Gourley will continue to help Catriona in the Sunday School which will meet upstairs at 10.30am. We would ask that this is made known to as many families as possible.

Scripture Union

The local SU newsletter outlines some encouraging news about some innovative interim activities, such as, SU TV and 'Holiday Get-Togethers' but normal meeting is still not possible. At staff level, Area Worker after 43 years of faithful ministry in this area, Kenny McKie will be replaced by Craig Morris. We pray for them and the many volunteer helpers.

Finally

On the 26th May, 1940, King George VI called for a day of National Prayer. Our armies were trapped in France. Millions flocked to churches throughout the UK and Commonwealth praying for deliverance. In spite of the advice by German generals and military logic, Hitler ordered the suspension of his army's advance. On the 26th May a violent storm took place over the area of Dunkirk, preventing the Luftwaffe from strafing and bombing our troops making their way to the beaches. During the following days a great calm came over the English Channel enabling hundreds of small boats to cross the channel and save our troops. This became known as "The miracle of Dunkirk". The 9th June was designated as a day of National Thanksgiving and the people sang Psalm 124. Verse 8 which says "Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth".