



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 18
26 September 2021

Richard Rohr writes:

Preaching "On the Mount"

Popular religious scholar and friend Diana Butler Bass shares how Jesus' teaching "on the mount" placed him in the lineage of Moses and other revered Jewish prophets. Jesus builds on his own Jewish tradition to call his hearers to transformative living. She writes:

This section [Matthew 5-7] opens with Jesus going "up the mountain," a deliberate choice that ancient Jewish Christians would have recognized as aligning Moses and Jesus. The Sermon on the Mount opens with blessings—on the poor, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger—in the same way that Moses pronounces blessings on the people of Israel as they prepare to enter the land of milk and honey in Deuteronomy 28. . . .

Jesus's first hearers would have understood what he was doing. Jesus was restating the written Torah, the passed-down law of Moses, in the words of his own "oral Torah," a practice common in Judaism. In Matthew, Jesus places himself in the line of authoritative voices in the Hebrew tradition. Although this was done throughout the history of Israel by teachers, scribes, and prophets, including the most revered leaders, when Jesus claimed to join the ranks of these teachers, it was a pretty gutsy thing to do. . . .

Near the end of the sermon, Jesus states the Golden Rule, the foundation of all the commandments: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and prophets" (7:12). . . . The crowds got it—Jesus the rabbi was at work renewing and reinterpreting the law and, in the process, claiming the divine authority to do so: a teacher *and* a prophet. . . . Jesus does not replace. Jesus reimagines and expands, inviting an alternative and often innovative reading of Jewish tradition. [1]

The German preacher and religious reformer Eberhard Arnold (1883-1935) believed that the people who heard Jesus' message—both in his own time as well as ours—were obligated to act on the ancient call of God to live the Great Commandment, not simply listen to it.

It is incredible dishonesty in the human heart to pray daily that this kingdom should come, that God's will be done on earth as in heaven, and at the same time to deny that Jesus wants this kingdom to be put into practice on earth. Whoever asks for the rulership of God to come down on earth must believe in it and be wholeheartedly resolved to carry it out. Those who emphasize that the Sermon on the Mount is impractical and weaken its moral obligations should remember the concluding words, "Not all who say 'Lord' to me shall reach the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my Father in heaven" [Matthew 7:21]. [2]

References: [1] Diana Butler Bass, *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* (HarperOne: 2021), 39, 40, 41. [2] Eberhard Arnold, *Salt and Light: Living the Sermon on the Mount*, 4th ed. (Plough Publishing House: 1998), 135.





Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Deanery of South Coast
- For the people of Indonesia, Turkey, all those in Refugee camps;
- Peter & Dianne; Nola Browell;
- Project Regenerate;
- Daily outreach to friend, family and neighbour;

Community:

- For seasonal weather;
- For all on school holidays;
- For all those feeling lonely, isolated, vulnerable, miserable;
- All facing natural disaster and disease;
- All COVID consequences;

Years Mind: Jack Seater, Joyce Tarrant, Baggy Roberts, Charles Funke, Nancy Shorrack, John Griffiths, Glen Woodward, John Payne

Service Times Sept/Oct

Pentecost 18 – 26 September

Home Church Service – Pew Sheet

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

Pentecost 19 – 03 October

Morning Prayer – 9.30am Christ Church

Pentecost 20 – 10 October

Morning Prayer – 9.30am Christ Church

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

Pentecost 21 – 17 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

6.00pm SHINE

I Dare You To Ask Rev That

The final chapter in the four-part series – released last Sunday:

Part IV – “The Bible, the Church and other stuff”

<https://youtu.be/bgS944zWetU>

Other episodes: warrackanglican.org.au

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be seasoned? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

Collect: O God, your Son has taught us that those who give a cup water in his name will not lose their reward: open our eyes to see those who are in need, and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards, so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you in your children, we may labour for the treasure that endures; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Simple Service – for Pentecost 18

Hymn: Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things
will be added unto you.**

Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu alleluia.*

**Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and you shall find,
knock and it shall
be opened unto you.**

Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu alleluia.*

**We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds
from the mouth of the Lord.**

Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu alleluia.*

(Karen Lafferty)

Reflection:

- a) *What was your favourite moment this week?*
- b) *What would you like to ask God for this week?*

Prayer of Preparation:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings:

Videos: +Garry

Reflection:

- a) What was the phrase that ‘jumped out’ at you this morning?
- b) What word or image would best describe who God is for you from the readings and your reflections?

Prayer:

Praise. Petition. Intercession. Thanksgiving.
(or follow your own discipline.)

The Lord’s Prayer.

Collect for the Day.

Blessing:

The peace of the earth be with you,
The peace of the heavens too;
The peace of the rivers be with you,
The peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace – flowing in you.
God’s peace growing in you. Amen.

Song: Praise to the Lord (v1,2,5)

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is your
health and salvation.
Come all who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him with glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord who in all things is
wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting,
sustaining:**

**have you not seen
all that is needed has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is
within me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now
with praises before him.**

**Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for ever adore him.**

Joachim Neander Text: APBA © 1985 Broughton Publishing.
Music: © 1999. Together in Song. Harper Collins. CCL 610638

TODAY'S READINGS

PENTECOST 18

First Reading: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

A reading from the book of Esther

So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, 'Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have found favour with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life – this is my petition. And spare my people – this is my request. For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.' King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, 'Who is he? Where is he – the man who has dared to do such a thing?' Esther said, 'An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, 'A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman's house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.' The king said, 'Impale him on it!' So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided. Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, that they should celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote to them to

observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 19:7-14

Response: *The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.*

1. The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul;
the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple. **(R)**
2. The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true,
all of them just. **(R)**
3. Though your servant is careful of them,
very diligent in keeping them,
Yet who can detect failings?
Cleanse me from my unknown faults!
(R)
4. From wanton sin especially, restrain your servant;
let it not rule over me.
Then shall I be blameless and innocent of serious sin. **(R)**

Second Reading: James 5:12-20

A reading from the letter of James

Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple 'Yes' or 'No'. Otherwise you will be condemned. Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you ill? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the ill person well; the Lord will raise them

up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 9:38-50

***A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Mark***

‘Teacher,’ said John, ‘we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.’ ‘Do not stop him,’ Jesus said. ‘For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment

say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward. ‘If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in me – to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung round their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. [] And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. [] And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.” Everyone will be salted with fire. ‘Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.’

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

GRATITUDE DIARY

Latest research suggests that 'Gratitude' is one of the best ways to tackle depression, dis-engagement and is a "pick me up" that we can all 'administer' to ourselves no matter who or where we are - or what we may be going through. Here's a simple little "Gratitude Diary" you might like to do every day this week.

Someone in my life I am grateful for:

Something material I am grateful for:

A situation in my life that I am grateful for:

An experience I had that I am grateful for:

Something about myself I am grateful for:

Something that went well for me: