

Sermon for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity 2020

My Dear Friends,

As we go through life we encounter issues which are far from our control. Often, even if we apply human logic to a particular situation, nothing really makes any sense. When we pray, Our Lord knows better than we do the difficulties that we face and are trying to resolve.

Today's lessons, in their very different ways point to the solution as to what might be described as the human condition. In the Old Testament Lesson, God assures us that he is with us every step of our journey, our constant companion and guide. He nurtures us through the haze of the reality of the world in which we live. "I am with thee, in all places thou goest and I will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" Genesis Chapter 28 V15.

It follows therefore our comfort is our Faith in Him who lives with us and through us as He guides us along the way of life. We need to be accepting of this truth and faithfully follow the guidance set up for us through meditation and earnest prayer. God moves in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.

It is to those who with a cheerful disposition that we see the work of God at first hand, for as we read in 2 Corinthians Chapter 10, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as his purpose in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver".

When we fully accept what we cannot change we will have achieved that which God ordained for the human condition. Life constantly throws challenges in our way, indeed dealing currently with Covid 19 is a tremendous challenge for so many people. The loss of a loved one, the despair of the pain and suffering and the natural tendency to ask why?

It is easy to say trust in God, but frankly, as Christians that is exactly what is required of us. We have to stand by 'our profession of faith' if it is to have any meaning or effect in a society of unbelievers. God is bearing the despair and pain with us each and every step of the way "I will not leave thee". But this same reality is the same in every challenge or joy that affects our lives. Whether it be a special occasion, wedding anniversary, recovery from illness, unemployment, testing a relationship, poverty, hunger, God is with us every step of the way.

Through prayer, we are able to discern His Will that much is true, but it is how we react to it that really matters. God's will and our wills are often very different indeed. We can find it very difficult to accept the Truth of a situation but something very deep within us often tells us as it really is. On no account must we ever challenge the wisdom and truth of God, He and He alone knows our true destiny and purpose. Today's Collect really puts everything into context.

"Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do anything that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Pray therefore for the courage to change things for the better when it can be done, but pray when it can't be done, pray for patience to endure what must be endured, and for the sagacity to know the difference between the possible and the impossible.

"Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things"- 1 CORINTHIANS 13.7.

"Religion is not ours till we live by it, till it is the religion of our thoughts, words and actions, till it goes with us into every place, sits uppermost on every occasion and forms and governs our hopes and fears, our cares and pleasures." William Law.

In His Love

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