

Traditional Home service Sunday 14th June Trinity 1

OPENING PRAYER

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:
Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.
Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (see page 2)

READINGS - Romans 5:1-8
- Matthew 9:35-10:8

TALK (see page 3)

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN 2 (see page 2)

CONCLUSION

May the Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

Joachim Neander.

470 Tr. Catherine Winkworth 1863,
and P. Dearmer 1906.

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy
health and salvation!

All ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters, draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here
daily attend thee:

Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish
thy life and restore thee,
Fitting thee well for the tasks that are
ever before thee,
Then to thy need
He like a mother doth speed,
Spreading the wings of grace o'er
thee.

Praise to the Lord, who when
tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly
around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease,
Turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.
Praise to the Lord, who, when
darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all
virtue confounding,
Sheddeth His light,
Chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in

me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now
with praises before Him!

Let the Amen

Sound from His people again:

Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Fanny J. Crosby.

BLESSED ASSURANCE, Jesus is
mine:

O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
Born of His Spirit, washed in His
blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and
blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His
love.

Adrian's talk - 14th June

(Matthew 9:35-10:8)

I'm going to be walking through the Gospel reading set for today.

Which is Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

So do grab a Bible... pause the video and get one if you would like to follow it through with me.

Its at this point in Matthew's Gospel that things change.

Up until now Jesus has been the one who has proclaimed the Kingdom, healed people, cast out demons.

Ministry was done by Jesus alone. Now at this point, this changes and the 12 disciples are now tasked to do ministry.

So its a reminder to us of course, that following Jesus is about all of us being involved in ministry.

I can't remember who said this, but someone likened church to a football match.

There's a crowd of people sitting on the sidelines watching a smaller number of people running around getting tired.

Not that Sunday church is where its at of course.

Sunday church is primarily about celebrating the goodness of God And equipping people to live out their Christian life effectively, wherever they find themselves during the week.

So this Matthew passage is a reminder that we are all supposed to be involved in bringing the kingdoms in.

Seeing the Kingdom of God influence the parts of society that we are involved in.

And actually where we have influence...

OK, It says:

"Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom,

and curing **every** disease and **every** sickness."

I want to focus quickly on the word 'every'.

And before we say, "Ah, well that was Jesus, he was able to heal every disease and sickness."

Later we will see that Jesus gave His 12 disciples authority to also heal **every** disease and sickness.

Now of course we don't see **every** disease and **every** sickness cured.

But I would rather have that as the standard and then wrestle with why we don't see that.

Than change the standard, dilute our theology, which will eventually result in us not even praying for the sick.

I'm sure there are many reasons as to why we don't see so many healings in the western church.

Maybe we have got too comfortable. Maybe, we have become too reliant on scientific explanations. Maybe, we don't understand or know how to use the authority given to us.

In the end, much of the why is a mystery. And we have to live well with that.

Yet the standard remains. Jesus healed every disease and sickness.

On possible reason though, I think, might be given in the next verse.

It says:

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

We are seeing on our TV screen at the moment, vast crowds protesting against racism.

I don't know about you, but I often find crowds quite intimidating. I'm wary of them...

Jesus had this ability to see people different from us.

When He looked at a crowd he saw people in need.

I think when Jesus looked at people, He was able to see a person's potential.

He saw, Who they could really be.
Who God designed them to be.

He could see how far short, maybe, they were.
How harassed they were.

I think when Jesus looked at people, He longed for people to be free.

He longed for people to reach their full potential.
He longed for people to live life to the full.

And so He had compassion on them.

Often, I think, as the church when we minister to people.
Even when we pray for people to be healed.

Our motivation isn't driven by compassion.
But maybe its driven by trying to meet some unmet need in us.

Maybe we want to be seen as the church who can heal people.
Or the church who can save people.
The church that gets results... therefore God must be pleased with us.

Yet, compassion is what motivated Jesus.
That's a real challenge to me.

v37.. *"Then he said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"*

I don't know whether this happened, because its not in the text.
But I like to think it might have been like this...

Jesus tells his disciples to pray for workers.
I'm sure they did.. 'Lord, send more workers, we need people to get out there...'

The next verse, Ch10v1 says:

"He (that is Jesus!) called His twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness."

In other words, 'Guys, you're the ones going out to do the stuff!'

I can imagine the disciples.. like.. 'But we were praying for others to go out... we were expecting the Lord to send other people... who are far more qualified...'

Often, I think, we are the solution to whatever it is we are praying for.

If the Lord has opened your heart towards a situation.
A group of people.
A nation...

He may well be calling you to not only pray for it.
But to do something practical about it.
For you to be the kingdom bearer into that situation, that group of people, that nation.

The names of the disciples are then listed..
And the instruction given.. v7...

'Preach this message, The kingdom of heaven is near, Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.... and do it all for free!'

These were the first instructions to the disciples.
This is class 101, the basics... *raise the dead!*

This so challenges me!

I remember soon after becoming a Christian I read a book by Peter Lawrence. I think it was called The Hot Line.

It was about the work of the Holy Spirit.

In it he says, Jesus, kind of only did three things.
Preach the kingdom, healed the sick and cast out demons.

He then said, the Church of England is great at many things.

In fact there is only probably three things it isn't that good at..

You've guess it... preaching the Kingdom, healing the sick and casting out demons!

I can say that As Church of England vicar!

Lets come to a finish.

We are all to be involved in bringing the Kingdom of God to bear.
Compassion is a key motivator.

If you haven't got much, pray for it!
Ask the Lord to give you eyes to see people as He sees them.

Be prepared to be the answer to what you are praying for.

Very finally, I want to apply this passage to the current situation that is developing in not only America but this country.

The problem of racism...

And I mused about this on Wednesday...

I recently heard the black American director Spike Lee talking about this issue.

He said some insightful things.

He said America was built on the foundation of two things...
Firstly genocide, the indigenous people, the Indians, were either driven off their land or killed.

A lot of us have been brought up on Western movies that really romanticise what was in fact genocide.

Secondly, the prosperity of America was built on the slave trade, free labour.

And he said, if your foundation is rotten, as every architect knows, your building will be rotten.

So your foundation needs to be addressed.

Much of this nations's heritage isn't great. Colonialism and the salve trade have been significant in our history.

Maybe our foundation needs addressing...

An expression of the Kingdom of God is yes, of course, a church where

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:27-29)

And I would hope as a church we are doing well with that...

But if the Kingdom is to infiltrate society, then the Kingdom of God is also a society where there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor black or white, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

And that is something the church should be standing up for, fighting for...

And as I said on Wednesday, the church should be encouraging those people who know what it is like to experience the wrong end of racism...

Those people should be given positions of influence and authority within our churches, the government, education, media, the arts, our sports world, and our businesses.

Only then will society change and this 'scourge on humanity' as the Archbishops said, will be eradicated.
Amen!