



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

30 June 2019

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P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 (NIV)

Elijah Taken Up to Heaven

2 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

⁷ Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸ Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

¹⁰ "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."

¹¹ As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

¹³ Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

Psalm 77:1-2,11-20 (NIV)

¹ I cried out to God for help;

I cried out to God to hear me.

² When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted.

¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

¹² I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds."

¹³ Your ways, God, are holy.

What god is as great as our God?

¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.

¹⁵ With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

¹⁶ The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed.

¹⁷ The clouds poured down water, the heavens resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth.

¹⁸ Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.

¹⁹ Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.

²⁰ You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Meg's Musings

A new saying seems to have come into vogue over the past year or two, "Does this spark joy?"

It was first used in relation to possessions, and it was suggested that it was the question to ask when you were attempting to downsize.

But it has become much more widely used.

Some people go through their entire wardrobe each season, asking themselves whether each piece of clothing "sparks joy". Presumably, if it doesn't, you throw it out.

I have even heard it used in relation to employment - if you are no longer fascinated with your job, you move on.

Peoples' relationships are kept up to date by letting go of them if people no longer share quite as much in common, or have developed diverse interests.

Just as well that God does not look on us in that way. Even if we shun him, choose to spend our times in other company or ignore his offers of help, God is still there for us.

He loves us, will never lose interest in us, and will always hope that we will enjoy his company as much as he enjoys ours.

We will always "spark joy" in God.

Blessings from Meg



"And that is how change happens. One gesture. One person. One moment at a time." ~ Libba Bray

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the friends and family of Gordon Gibson as they mourn his passing.
- We once again pray for rain to replenish dams and moisten the soil.
- We uphold in prayer the members of City Church congregation.
- We pray for Geoff Webster who is undergoing treatment in Sydney.
- We thank God for answered prayer.

Galatians 5:1, 13-25 (NIV)

Freedom in Christ

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Life by the Spirit

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Luke 9:51-62 (NIV)

Samaritan Opposition

⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"

⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village.

The Cost of Following Jesus

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

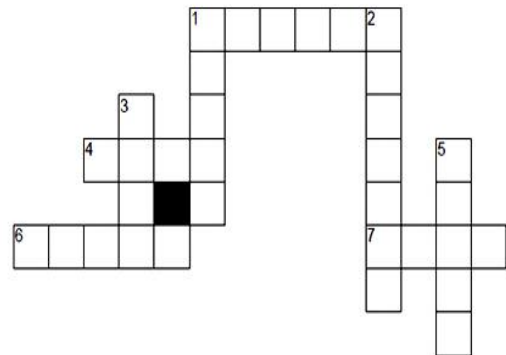
⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."

⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

First Things First

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:61-62 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 9:51-62



ACROSS

- 1. To walk behind someone
- 4. An opening in the ground where an animal might live
- 6. Creatures with feathers and wings, usually able to fly
- 7. A home for birds

DOWN

- 1. Animals similar to dogs with a long, bushy tail
- 2. Traveling on foot
- 3. A pathway for vehicles, people, and animals
- 5. The Son of God

Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody.



1st Sunday of the month
~ Luncheon @ West

4th Sunday of the month
~ Markets @ **Hallsville**
23 June

CHURCH SERVICES

5 July 6pm **Hallsville** ~ Margaret Crowell
7 July 11am **West** ~ Sue Budden



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