



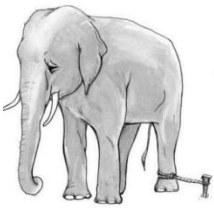
Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

5 November 2023

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH



THE ELEPHANT ROPE

Once upon a time, a gentleman was walking through an elephant camp. He noticed that the

elephants were not kept in cages or held by chains. He was shocked when he spotted that they were held by a small piece of rope which they could break very easily.

Why were they not using their strength to break the ropes and escape the camp. He was very curious to know, so he went to the trainer. He asked him why they are not trying to escape the camp?

The trainer replied:

"When they are very young and smaller in size we use the same size rope to tie them and at that age, it's enough to hold them because they couldn't break it. As they grow up, they still believe that the rope can hold them, so they never try to break it and escape the camp.

The only reason that the elephants weren't breaking the rope and escaping from the camp was that over time they adopted the belief that they couldn't."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break the rope and escape, but because they believed it was not possible. So they were stuck right where they were without trying to escape. They were failed to escape in childhood, and never tried again. Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before. ...continued

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:
Josiah 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Moral of The Elephant Rope:

Remember that... No matter how much the world tries to hold you back from your achievements, always continue with the belief that what you want to achieve is possible and you can achieve it with your hard work. Believing in yourself is the most important step in achieving your goal.

Failure is part of learning; we should never give up on the struggle in life. Failure is the key to success so we should try our best in achieving what we want, instead of giving up.

(from a book by A M Marcus)



Mavis Chaffey will be

remembered as an encourager. She was positive, gentle, and caring.

Some people will remember Mavis' sponge cakes. Others will remember she and Viv racing around town on their scooters. Mavis visited Viv faithfully at McKay House for several years. She was a loyal and loving sister. She was also a loyal and loving friend. We will all miss her very much."

Service for Mavis at West Tamworth
11am Thursday 9 November.

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;

Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

~ unknown

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



Mathew 23:1-12 (NLT)

Jesus Criticizes the Religious Leaders

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,
² "The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses.
³ So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach.
⁴ They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.
⁵ "Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels.
⁶ And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues.
⁷ They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called 'Rabbi.'
⁸ "Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters.
⁹ And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven is your Father.
¹⁰ And don't let anyone call you 'Teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Messiah.
¹¹ The greatest among you must be a servant.
¹² But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks for the life of our friend Mavis.
- We pray for people throughout the world who are grieving.
- We pray for people who are unwell, and those who are in pain.
- We pray for God's Kingdom to come into our hurting, fractured world.
- We give thanks for those glimpses of God which we see reflected in the people we love.



From Rev Geoff Flynn *Rev Tony Schumack & Rev Geoff Flynn*

This Sunday we read the story of the day the people of Israel crossed the river Jordan into the Promised land.



The Exodus begins with the crossing of the Red Sea and ends with the crossing of the River Jordan. It's a critical part of the story of the Exodus because the crossing of Jordan puts some level of closure of the nation building event that lasted 40 years.

The crossing of the river also represents a new beginning for the people of Israel and their new leader Joshua. As the Red Sea washed away the identity of Israel as a nation of slaves, Jordan's waters washes away their identity as homeless refugees. Crossing the Red Sea, God was shown as a God who sets us free. Crossing the Jordan, God is revealed as a God who richly provides.

In life, and in ministry, we can always find bookends which mark momentous occasions. On the weekend I experienced the joy of being inducted into a new role as a Minister in the Peel Valley Congregation at the same time as we experienced the sadness the death of one of our great saints, Mavis Chaffey.

Birth and death, comings and goings, loss and gain, grief and joy are all example of the bookend experiences of life.

Forged out of their experiences in the wilderness, the Israelites receive a new beginning. A Jordan lies before us as a congregation. By faith let us enter our new future confident the Jesus leads the way.

**"The world is full of nice people.
If you can't find one, be one."** ~ Nishan Panwar

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville



**Open 9:30 to 1:00pm
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.**

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 0476 375 989**



Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush