



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

26 November 2023

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Luke 6:31-40 (NLT)

A Discussion about the Sabbath

6 One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grainfields, his disciples broke off heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands, and ate the grain.

2 But some Pharisees said, "Why are you breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?"

3 Jesus replied, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry?"

4 He went into the house of God and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests can eat. He also gave some to his companions."

5 And Jesus added, "The Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath."

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

6 On another Sabbath day, a man with a deformed right hand was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching.

7 The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.

8 But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." So the man came forward.

9 Then Jesus said to his critics, "I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?"

10 He looked around at them one by one and then said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored!

11 At this, the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him.

....continued

Luke 6:31-40 (NLT)

Do Not Judge Others

37 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

39 Then Jesus gave the following illustration: "Can one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch?"

40 Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.

It hurt because it mattered. ~ John Green

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville



Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

4th Sunday of the month ~ Markets @ Hallsville



Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

CHURCH SERVICES



3 December 11 am West ~ Meg Mangan

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



Everything you can imagine is real. ~ Picasso

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Hugo, and for the members of his family. We also pray that his health improves over the coming days and weeks.
- We thank God for the rain we've had this week.
- We pray for the people of the Middle East, and Ukraine.
- We pray for our families, whether nearby, or far away.
- We give thanks for the medical help available to us in Tamworth.



Meg's Musings

. Last night I was serenaded to sleep by a chorus of frogs. It was a happy sound.

I was so pleased that the frogs have been able to survive the dry times, and can now enthusiastically embrace some wetter days and nights.

There are times in our lives too, when survival is the best that we can manage.

When the good times return, are you able to rejoice, and to embrace life once again?

Sometimes periods of stress, pain or loss cause people to become bitter, and they fail to recognise the good around them.

I pray that you can enjoy the good, and cope with the "dry" times.

Blessings from Meg



Thank you to the person or persons who nominated me for the Tamworth Regional Council Volunteers recognition. It is most humbling but honourable to be nominated.

~ **Margaret Crowell**



Paul Turner passed away on 22nd November.

He will be remembered by everyone at Peel Valley.

Paul was our organist for many years and led some services at West Tamworth.

Paul was an encourager. He gradually paved the way for Beth to take over playing the organ for us. Paul was a friend to everyone in the congregation. Paul's sense of humour, and response to a funny story or incident, was immediate and heartfelt. We all enjoyed his spontaneous laughter. Paul will be greatly missed.



Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)

The Final Judgment

³¹ "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.

³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.

³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

³⁷ "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink?

³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing?

³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

⁴⁰ "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

⁴¹ "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.

⁴² For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink.

⁴³ I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

⁴⁴ "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'

⁴⁵ "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

⁴⁶ "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

Psalm 100 (NLT)

- 1 Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!
- 2 Worship the LORD with gladness.
Come before him, singing with joy.
- 3 Acknowledge that the LORD is God!
He made us, and we are his.
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the LORD is good.
His unfailing love continues forever,
and his faithfulness continues to each generation.



Advent Studies: run by Rev Geoff Flynn, Wednesdays at 2:00pm from 29th November at St. Andrew's Room (behind the City office)

Peel Valley CHRISTMAS LUNCH

10th December Hallsville 11 am
Peel Valley service and lunch ~ Rev Geoff Flynn



Peel Valley CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
24th December

11 AM Hallsville ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

JESUS is
the *Reason*
for the 
Season.

From Rev Geoff Flynn

Last weekend I finally got around to sorting out my theological library. Inevitably, this is a slow process as I keep dipping into various books to remind myself of why I should keep it on my shelf. I came some words of encouragement in "Preaching and Teaching in the Small Church" by Willimon and Wilson.

"Small churches may not be able to fit some of our current images of Ecclesiastical success; they may not be able to meet whatever organisational requirements may be placed on them by their various denominations: they may fail in their attempts to provide even the vaguest semblance of the full program church. But to our knowledge there are no small churches that do not do a reasonably good job of celebrating Sunday. In fact, some small churches celebrate Sunday in a fashion that puts many of their larger sister churches to shame." There is nothing wrong with a Church existing primarily for worship on a Sunday as Sunday is a biblical and theological statement of who Christians are, what Christian worship is about and what the church is called do. That is to glorify God and enjoy God forever.

"It is also true that even as we are busy serving God in worship, we find that our needs are being graciously served by God when we worship."

Surely that is the best gift we can hope to receive this Christmas.

Blessings,

Blessings Rev Geoff



Other Christmas services and activities

Southside have a Nativity Scene display on Saturday, 2nd December, 9:00am - 3:00pm.

City Church Christmas Eve service will be led by Rev Geoff Flynn on 24th December at 7:30pm

Southside Christmas Eve service will be led by Rev Geoff Flynn on 24th December at 11:30pm

Southside Christmas Day service will be led by Rev Geoff Flynn at 9:00am on Christmas Day.

It will be the only Uniting Church service on Christmas Day.

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

Best Christmas Ever.

My family were on our way from Paris to Nice in a rented car. For five days everything had gone wrong. On Christmas Eve, there was no Christmas spirit in our hearts.

It was raining and cold when we went out to eat. In a drab little restaurant shoddily decorated for the holiday, a few tables were occupied. There were two German couples, two French families, and an American sailor who was writing a letter.

The waiter brought us the wrong thing.

At the table with the French family, the father slapped one of his children for some minor infraction and the boy began to cry.

On our right, the German wife was berating her husband.

We were interrupted by an unpleasant blast of cold air. Through the front door came an old flower woman. She wore a dripping, tattered overcoat, and shuffled in on wet, rundown shoes. She went from one table to the other.

"Flowers, Monsieur? Only one franc." No one bought any.

Wearily she sat down at a table between the sailor and us. "A bowl of soup please. I haven't sold a flower all afternoon." To the piano player she said hoarsely, "Can you imagine, Joseph, soup on Christmas Eve?"

He pointed to his empty "tipping plate."

The young sailor finished his meal and got up, put on his coat, he walked over to the flower woman's table.

"Happy Christmas," he said, smiling and picking out two corsages.

"How much are they?"

"One franc, Monsieur."

Pressing one of the smallest flowers flat, he put it into the letter he had written, then handed the woman a 20-franc note.

"I don't have change, Monsieur," she said. "I'll get some from the waiter."

"No, Ma'am," said the sailor, leaning over and kissing the ancient cheek. "This is my Christmas present to you."

Then he came to our table, holding the other corsage in front of him. "Sir," he said to me, "may I present these flowers to your beautiful wife?" In one quick motion he gave my wife the corsage, wished us a Merry Christmas and departed. Everyone had stopped eating.

Everyone had been watching the sailor.

A few seconds later Christmas exploded throughout the restaurant like a bomb.

The old flower woman jumped up, waving the 20-franc note, shouted to the piano player, "Joseph, my Christmas present! And you shall have half so you can have a feast too."

The piano player began to belt out *Good King Wenceslas*.

My wife waved her corsage in time to the music. She appeared 20 years younger. She began to sing, and our three sons joined her, bellowing with enthusiasm.

"Gut! Gut!" shouted the Germans. They began singing in German.

The waiter embraced the flower woman. Waving their arms, they sang in French.

The Frenchman who had slapped the boy beat rhythm with his fork against a glass. The lad, now on his lap, sang in a youthful soprano.

A few hours earlier 18 persons had been spending a miserable evening. It ended up being the happiest, the very best Christmas Eve they had ever experienced.

(told by James E. Faust, Christmas Dev., Dec. 6, 1998)

