



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

3 March 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

John 2:13-22 (23-25) (NLT)

Jesus Clears the Temple

¹³ It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money.

¹⁵ Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables.

¹⁶ Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

¹⁷ Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."

¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."

¹⁹ "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

²⁰ "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?"

²¹ But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body.

²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

Jesus and Nicodemus

²³ Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. ²⁴ But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. ²⁵ No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NLT)

The Wisdom of God

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

¹⁹ As the Scriptures say,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."

²⁰ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish.

²¹ Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

²² It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom.

²³ So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

²⁴ But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

CHURCH SERVICES

3 March 8.30am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan

3 March 11am **West** ~ Meg Mangan

10 March 11am **West** ~ Rev Geoff

17 March 8.30am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan

17 March 11am **West** ~ Meg Mangan

24 March **Palm Sunday Hallsville** - Rev Geoff

31 March **Easter Sunday City Church**

(Our 5th Sunday Combined Service)



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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the many, many people impacted by conflict around the world - and we pray for peace.
- We pray that Beth's health continues to improve.
- We give thanks for all of our Fab Finds volunteers.
- We pray for the many people recovering from Covid at the moment.
- We pray for Lynne Bowd's brother Bob, who is continuing chemotherapy.

Meg's Musings

There has been a focus recently on the long-term effects of concussion.

Many people who play any type of football end up experiencing a number of concussions over their career.

It can lead to dementia-type illnesses in mid-life, and is devastating for the person, and the people who love them.

It is something which is unseen, but has a huge impact on peoples' lives.

Whilst none of us has been a professional footy player, we too have each experienced wounds which are unseen.

Each of us has been hurt by the words and actions of others. Sometimes we pretend to shrug off the pain, but we can be hurt deep down.

When we share our pain with God, He can help us to heal from those wounds.

God can make us whole again.

Blessings from Meg



Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalms 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25



Nothing lasts forever but at least we got these memories. ~ J. Cole

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."

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush



Words from Rev Geoff

Our Baptism is more of a dying than a cleansing Last weekend Tamworth Southside hosted a combined Presbytery meeting and Preaching in the Year of Mark workshop. The presenters shared some valuable insights as to how to preach from Mark's Gospel. Even though, the Gospel reading for this Sunday is John 2:13-25 there was one insight which informed my reading of the Cleansing of the Temple. In Mark's gospel he seeks to redefine the concept of the Jewish Messiah from an all-powerful military general who brings about the Kingdom by force to a suffering servant, a Messiah who has come to die. Mark emphasises that Jesus has come to die and that our baptism is more about our dying than our cleansing. Contrary to the other three gospels, John places the Cleansing of the Temple at the beginning rather than the end of his gospel just before his death on the cross. Has John put this episode in the wrong place three years ahead of schedule? Surely, if Jesus had led a violent protest in the Temple right after the Wedding at Cana the authorities would have acted more swiftly to punish his disruptive behaviour. They would not have waited three years for a crucifixion.

But maybe, from a theological perspective, John has put it in the right place. Could it be that John wants to emphasise that Jesus has not come to perform miracles like turning water into wine? When the Jews asked Jesus why he had disrupted the temple, he told them it was a sign of his death and resurrection. Destroy this temple (the body of Jesus) and I will raise it up in three days. In other words, Jesus hasn't come to perform miracles or to cleanse the temple from corrupt practices, he has come to die. He has come to end the practice of ritual sacrifice as the mechanism of reconciling the people to God. And the way in which he will achieve this is through the destruction of his body. How we do community, how we do ministry has an impact on actual bodies. How we preach, teach, and talk to one another is felt in bodies. We forget these truths at our peril when we carry on with budgets and meetings and plans as if the incarnation were only a doctrine decided for the past. Carry on as if what we do is not experienced in God's body.

Yes, John introduces the cleansing of the Temple at just the right time, because without it, we might never know, never believe that Jesus' body, the Word made flesh, is now ours to embody through our baptism.

That is the Lenten Gospel truth.

Rev Geoff



An old man meets a young man who asks:
"Do you remember me?"

And the old man says no. Then the young man tells him he was his student, and the teacher asks:

"What do you do, what do you do in life?"

The young man answers:

"Well, I became a teacher."

"ah, how good, like me?" Asks the old man.

"Well, yes. In fact, I became a teacher because you inspired me to be like you."

The old man, curious, asks the young man at what time he decided to become a teacher. And the young man tells him the following story:

"One day, a friend of mine, also a student, came in with a nice new watch, and I decided I wanted it.

I stole it, I took it out of his pocket.

Shortly after, my friend noticed the his watch was missing and immediately complained to our teacher, who was you.

Then you addressed the class saying, 'This student's watch was stolen during classes today. Whoever stole it, please return it.'

I didn't give it back because I didn't want to.

You closed the door and told us all to stand up and form a circle.

You were going to search our pockets one by one until the watch was found.

However, you told us to close our eyes, because you would only look for his watch if we all had our eyes closed.

We did as instructed.

You went from pocket to pocket, and when you went through my pocket, you found the watch and took it. You kept searching everyone's pockets, and when you were done you said 'open your eyes. We have the watch.'

You didn't tell on me and you never mentioned the episode. You never said who stole the watch either. That day you saved my dignity forever. It was the most shameful day of my life.

But this is also the day I decided not to become a thief, a bad person, etc. You never said anything, nor did you even scold me or take me aside to give me a moral lesson.

I received your message clearly.

Thanks to you, I understood what a real educator needs to do.

Do you remember this episode, professor?

The old professor answered, 'Yes, I remember the situation with the stolen watch, which I was looking for in everyone's pocket. I didn't remember you, because I also closed my eyes while looking.'

This is the essence of teaching:

"If to correct you must humiliate; you don't know how to teach!!" ♥ ~ Steve Daly



Cleaning House

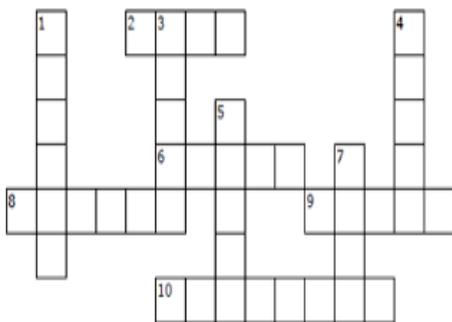
So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)



Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)

C W C M C P A S S O V E R U N
 H F O B A Y D M O N E Y J A V
 A F U F T R K Y G E Q H K M S
 N O R G T P K I F F F G E G C
 G T T T L U I E C G K L S G A
 E E S E E Q N D T T A E N X T
 R C O M J D O V E S L I S B T
 S R B P S B B G U B L E P R E
 H D G L G Z N R A L E E I X R
 J L R E Y I E T E Z E I W E E
 P E K O T J X S C H F X H W D
 E E W T V J N M S E H K I W V
 W D I I P E H O U S E G P I Z
 N S D R S C D U C O R D S M S
 K V C X C H N A T I M E E G G

DROVE	SCATTERED	JERUSALEM	PASSOVER	SITTING
TEMPLE	COURTS	DOVES	SHEEP	CATTLE
TIME	MARKET	CHANGERS	JEWISH	MONEY
SELLING	HOUSE	TABLES	WHIP	CORDS

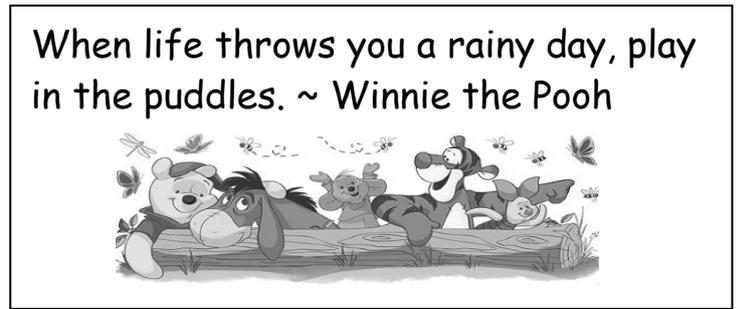
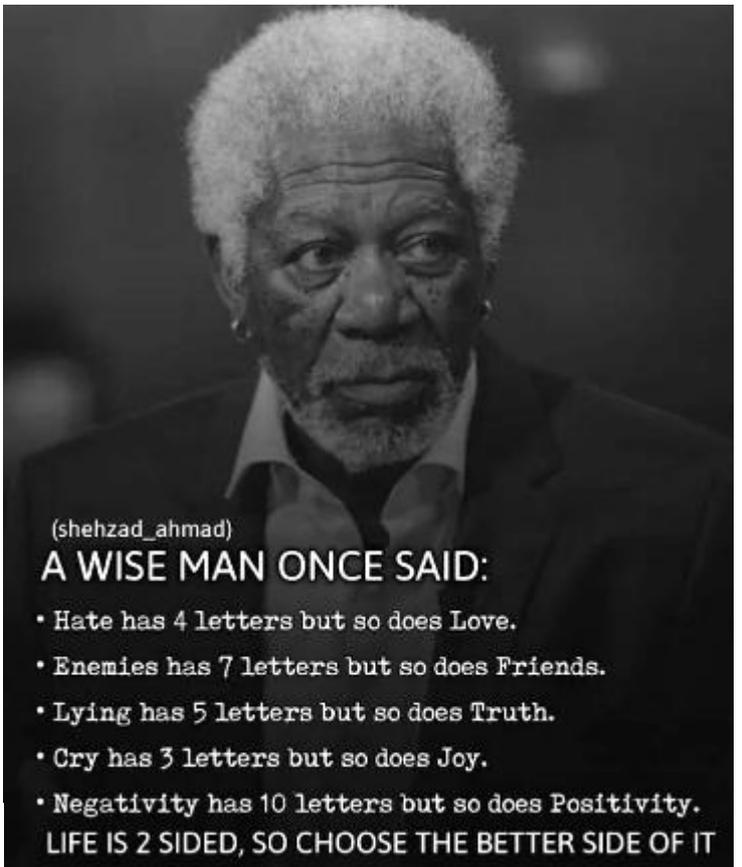


ACROSS

2. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
6. An animal raised for its wool
8. A building dedicated to the worship of God
9. Coins or bills used to pay for something
10. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

DOWN

1. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
3. A building where a family lives
4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
5. The Son of God
7. A small, wild pigeon



A NEW SINGING GROUP
 Hallsville Church @ 5:30 - 7:00pm
 fortnightly commencing **8th March**
 No cost is involved.
 Everyone is welcome. No-one is too young, or too old. If you play an instrument, please bring it along.
 There will be a light meal provided following the singing.

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville
 Open 9:30 to 1:00pm
 Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.
 Cuppa & chat always available.

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