



## Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

23 February 2025

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

### **Psalm 37:1-11,39-40 (NLT)**

#### **A psalm of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> Don't worry about the wicked  
or envy those who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> For like grass, they soon fade away.  
Like spring flowers, they soon wither.
- <sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD and do good.  
Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.
- <sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you your heart's desires.
- <sup>5</sup> Commit everything you do to the LORD.  
Trust him, and he will help you.
- <sup>6</sup> He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn,  
and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.
- <sup>7</sup> Be still in the presence of the LORD,  
and wait patiently for him to act.  
Don't worry about evil people who prosper  
or fret about their wicked schemes.
- <sup>8</sup> Stop being angry!  
Turn from your rage!  
Do not lose your temper—  
it only leads to harm.
- <sup>9</sup> For the wicked will be destroyed,  
but those who trust in the LORD will possess the land.
- <sup>10</sup> Soon the wicked will disappear.  
Though you look for them, they will be gone.
- <sup>11</sup> The lowly will possess the land  
and will live in peace and prosperity.
- <sup>39</sup> The LORD rescues the godly;  
he is their fortress in times of trouble.
- <sup>40</sup> The LORD helps them,  
rescuing them from the wicked.  
He saves them,  
and they find shelter in him.

### **Luke 6:27-38 (NLT)**

#### **Love for Enemies**

- <sup>27</sup> "But to you who are willing to listen, I say,  
love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.
- <sup>28</sup> Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.
- <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also.
- <sup>30</sup> Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would like them to do to you.
- <sup>32</sup> "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!
- <sup>33</sup> And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!
- <sup>34</sup> And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.
- <sup>35</sup> "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.
- <sup>36</sup> You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.
- Do Not Judge Others**
- <sup>37</sup> "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.
- <sup>38</sup> 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.



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray that Geoff and Sharon have a safe and fantastic holiday.
- We give thanks for some cooler nights, and the opportunity to sleep well.
- We thank God for the people in our lives who bring us joy, and are always ready to help us.
- We pray for the millions of people throughout the world who are impacted by the many changes taking place in the United States at the moment.
- We thank God for the many people who have paved the way for our faith walk.

### Meg's Musings

None of us would see ourselves as having enemies. We are far too polite and civilised for that!

But there may be people who may rub us up the wrong way from time to time.

We may come across people who are difficult to get along with.

Jesus suggests that we treat them in the same way that we treat our best friends, and our close family members.

Jesus tells us to love, bless, pray for, and lend to the people who we find hardest to like, or to trust....as well as to total strangers, and to those we love the most.

Following Jesus isn't easy - but it is life-giving, challenging and full of surprises.

*Blessing from Meg*



We should be lifting each other up and cheering each other on, not trying to outshine one another. The sky would be awfully dark with just one star.

STACIE

### CHURCH SERVICES

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

**9 March 11am West** ~ Rev Sam Sadrata

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

**23 March 11am West** ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

**30 March 11am: Combined service**

hosted by the Fijian congregation



**4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets**

**7:30am 23 March**



### Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches Weekly

We continue to sit with those gathered on the level place as we hear Christ continue to speak about the hardest thing, we as people struggle with – 'loving our enemies'. The truth is, it is easy to say, but when put into action, it is the hardest thing yet; because the reality is that we only love those who love us which is fine, but Christ invites us to love those who have wronged us – our 'enemies'. Again, Christ challenges our view this time with how we love; with how we show mercy when it is the hardest to do.

I wonder if there has ever been a time when we could say, "The world is at peace"? Jesus may well say we should love our enemies, be kind to those who hate us and turn the other cheek, but where do we see these all being lived out?

Instead, we see the starving and broken bodies of young children – the victims of war. We hear racist chants decrying the rights of refugees and belittling those who are different. The daunting thought is that the hostility and hatred that gives rise to war, terrorism and bigotry can just as easily reside in our hearts if we are not vigilant.

Humankind has such a propensity for anger and division that it is frightening. Humankind also has such a propensity for love and kindness that it can be inspiring. We can be moved to act with generosity and compassion, but it takes the orientation of our lives to these values in a deliberate fashion. For Christians, it is our relationship with God in Christ that lays the foundation for the common good. It is through prayer and the study of the scripture that we can come closer to the ways of God.

*Rev Samuela Sadrata*



### Other Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 1 Corinthians 15:35-38



*Shrove Tuesday!*



*Pancake Day!*

**4 March**

**10am Pancake Tuesday morning tea at Southside.**

### 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

### Snack Lunches

I sat down for what was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought. Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me.

"Where are you headed?" I asked the soldier seated nearest to me. "Petawawa. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, then we're being deployed to Afghanistan." After flying for about an hour, the announcement for sack lunches for \$5. It would be several hours before we reached the east, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time...

I looked around at the soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. "Take a lunch to all the soldiers." She grabbed my arms and thanked me. "My son was a soldier in Iraq ; it's almost like you are doing it for him."

"Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, "Which do you like best - beef or chicken?"

"Chicken," I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning with a plate from first class. "This is your thanks."

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. "I saw what you did. I want to be part of it." He handed me \$25. As I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand and said, "I want to shake your hand."

Quickly unfastening my seat belt I stood and took the Captain's hand.

He said, "I was a soldier and I was a military pilot."

.....continued

Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot." I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man, seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another \$25 in my palm.

When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word.

Another \$25!

Entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them \$75, explaining who it came from.

"It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You."

Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers. As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals. It seemed so little. ~ faithhub.net

Jesus taught that loving one another, even people we don't get along with is really important. And one way we do that is to treat others how we want to be treated. So if we want others to welcome us, then we do that for others. Or if we want others to be kind to us, we are kind to others. ~ Sermon4kids

### 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

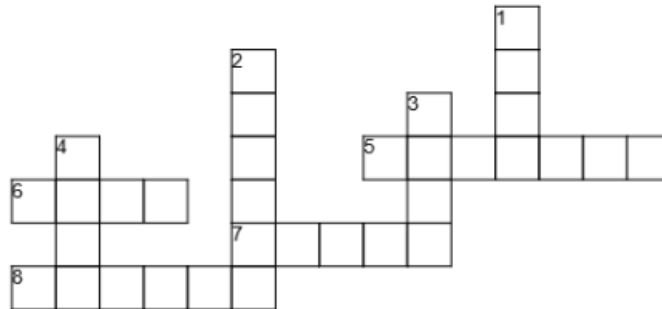




# The Golden Rule

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 (NIV)

The activity is based on words found in Luke 6:27-38



## HORIZONTAL

5. Persons you know and like very much
6. Something that is pleasing; morally upright
7. Any person or group that is opposed to you
8. Something good received in return for good behavior

## VERTICAL

5. Persons you know and like very much
6. Something that is pleasing; morally upright
7. Any person or group that is opposed to you
8. Something good received in return for good behavior

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

FATHER  
ENEMIES  
REWARD

BLESS  
SINNERS  
CURSE

WICKED  
HATE  
MISTREAT

GREAT  
LOVE  
MERCIFUL

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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