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WEEKLY LETTER – 6 NOVEMBER 2022

Luke 20.27-38

To a considerable extent this absorbing episode in Jesus' life mirrors a previous visit to Jerusalem when he was 12 years old. Again he was engaged in a debate with the teachers of the Jewish faith. Do read Luke 2.41-47.

It is historically true that the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, while the Pharisees did. And of course, typical of the Sadducees legal training and self interest they tried to catch Jesus out.

Like all great teachers Jesus hits the nail on the head with clarity and clear logic. God is the God of the living, not the dead. But, if you read on to the end of the chapter (please do!), you will see again how Jesus is determined to speak up against the violence created by lies and self-interest. To Jesus those who deceived people about God were like a dead dog blocking a sewer. They used words and power for their own personal gain, and Jesus knew only too well, you cannot cleanse a sewer. You need to start again.

Over and over again Jesus has been saying, "you worship in dark corners, and your words and actions deceive people. You fail to realize that God is closer to you than you are to yourself".

As we move closer and closer to Luke's Gospel to the cross, you can feel the tension rising, because Jesus is in opposition to those powerful religious figures, dressed in long robes, who are only in search of physical power, possessions and having. While Jesus was proclaiming a love that demands an act of faith, and act of self-abandonment. Jesus' challenge remains true for us now.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Dr Noel Davies. We will celebrate Communion.

Bible Readings: Genesis 32.22-31: Luke 24.28-35

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Hall Street, Llanelli.

Tuesday, 8th November, 2 pm – Tea and Chat - Christ Well



Harvest Appeal – 9th October 2022

Thank you to all who so generously responded to this appeal.
£811.60 has been sent to Christian Aid.

God of the living not the dead

(Haggai 1.15b-2.9: Psalm 145.1-5, 17.-21: 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17: Luke 20.27-39)

Dear God,

I am weary of the “winners and losers” way of seeing life: the TV shows dismissing those who fail; the politicians scoring points instead of seeking truth; religious people claiming theirs can be the only way.

More often I am less with those who win
and closer by far with write-offs who fall off a cliff, or cannot stand the heat, or are dead in the water,
or always fail to make the cut.

So, I’ll step back a pace or two from the relentless competition
And find You standing close and saying: “My preference is to raise the loser and the lost,
for I’d far sooner deal in life – not death.”

For everyone who ‘wins’ today, I give you thanks.
For the many more who tried but didn’t gain top grade,
I pray that they too will know the welcome affirmation of Your love. Amen.

Ian Fosten (URC Prayer Handbook 2022)

