



Tel : 01792 415222

Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com

WEEKLY LETTER –18 SEPTEMBER 2022

Luke 16.1-13

We move through this world ‘with the drawing of this love and the voice of this callings’. T.S. Eliot

Joseph’s duty would have been to teach his eldest son wood work, and also how to sell his work. It is therefore inevitable that Jesus would have come across shrewd businessmen. I think we can safely say that Jesus met a few scoundrels who tried to pull a fast one over him, and/or tried to change the contract! So this parable is not encouraging you to be a rogue or cook the books!

You could say, “Isn’t this parable about how our lives rise and fall by the path we follow. But, Jesus is not a moral teacher passing on to us ‘home truths’!

The theme that runs through this unusual parable is, how would God like you to live your life in a world that Jesus knew from his own experiences, was full of complexities where humans are predictably inconsistent and life consistently throws up surprises.

You will know we have just been through a pandemic, and who knows how this will evolve? Elsewhere there are wars, dehumanising poverty, human trafficking and misery inflicted on refugees. But God’s world is not only defined by events, it is more accurately explained and understood by the ‘Spirit’ of the age and the context that you daily get out of bed to work within and for. It is more likely therefore that Jesus is asking you, what spirit is guiding you? The Spirit to help others or the spirit that focuses on “me”, “the self”, which Iris Murdoch refers to as ‘our fat relentless ego’!!

Knowing that we all go through difficult times Jesus also makes it clear that each one of us needs God’s spirit to enliven us, to enthuse us, and so to build upon your genuine desire to become more generously in love with people, to worry less about what lies ahead, and of course to encourage you to hold on to God’s hand, and step by step trust him, more and more.

In other words we all know how incomplete we are, and it’s good to know that all of the N.T. writers knew this truth. Yes, Christians rightly says “we are fearfully and wonderfully made”; we have God’s spirit within us, but we also admit to failure and have an inner sense that we need help, in part because God remains partly hidden to us.

Yes, there is the promise that you will become fully complete, and if you want the snazzy word, it is an ‘eschatological promise’, that is, this completeness will only happen in God’s world, and its important to hold on to this promise in your hearts!

In the mean time as long as you desire to live a life that God would like, we all move through this world (as T.S. Eliot put it) ‘with the drawing of this love and the voice of this calling and this spirit will undoubtedly guide you to discover more and more about God’s truth. For your life, like all lives is a long process, a slow becoming.

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Martin Spain.
Bible Reading: Colossians 3.8-17**

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Uniting Church, Sketty.

Prayers for Every Household – Pwll y domen

The death of Queen Elizabeth II - Rev Dr John Bradbury , General Secretary of the United Reformed Church said:

“Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II lived the most remarkable life of dedicated Christian service. As a devout Anglican and Presbyterian her faith shone from her words and deeds. Her contribution to the life of our nations, the commonwealth, and beyond will be remembered with gratitude for generations to come. She inspired respect from across the political spectrum and from monarchists and republicans alike. The United Reformed Church has always been aware that as each General Assembly presents a loyal address to the throne, we have been addressing a fellow baptised sister in Christ. We give thanks for her life and uphold in prayer all who mourn for her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.”

