

Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, Oct 23, 2016

Notes for the sermon on A Humble Faith

Ps 84:1-7 and Luke 18:9-14

Sermon Text = Luke 18:9



He also told this parable to some who trusted that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt.

[Hymns = 338, 324, and 399 in the *Book of Praise*]

Key Ideas

1. John Adams, one of the founding fathers of the United States of America, wrote these words to his favourite corespondent, his wife, Abigail, in 1777 – *I believe there is no one principle which predominates human nature so much in every stage of life, from cradle to grave, in males and females, old and young, black and white, rich and poor, high and low, as this passion for superiority* – this yearning to be better than another has been around since Cain and Able – it filled several of the disciples making the disturbing journey to Jerusalem with Jesus – “Who is going to have the highest place, be closest to you, when the Kingdom comes?” – and the worst consequences of this self-righteous attitude are clearly on display around the world today – my religion, morals, views, etc are better than yours, so you should be treated with contempt, even to the point of death
2. Luke has a special emphasis in his telling of the story of Jesus on God’s love for the outsider – Jesus makes it clear in everything he does and says that God’s love is universal – God desires reconciliation with the whole of creation – that is the promise being fulfilled in Jesus as the Christ – so those who follow Jesus are invited and equipped to share that kind of love in all their circles of influence – self-righteous arrogance of any kind has no place among the followers of Jesus – when tempted with that kind of attitude and behaviour, and we all are, remember the Lord you follow washed his disciples feet to model his way of humble service and faith in them
3. In the end, it’s all about relationships and the spirit with which they are infused – the Spirit inspires Jesus to teach, to heal, to serve, indeed, to die, all through a humble faith in the potential of human beings to live in justice, peace and joy – that is a crucial dimension of the beauty of creation that God desires – our faith, and the humility that flows from it, arises out of deep gratitude for such love from God to us – it is God’s faith in us that energizes a humble faith in God – that is the foundation of Christian blessing

At this stage in our ponderings, then ...

Christian faith is a relationship with God, others, and ourselves that is infused with and inspired by gratitude for the relationships of mutual respect that God has created for us – we worship, learn and serve in that spirit when we respect others as equals – beloved friends of God, just like us – called together to bless this creation through humble service

Sermon notes of Rev Dr Brian Fraser,
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