

Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, Oct 16, 2016

Notes for the sermon on Persistence in Seeking Justice

Ps 121 and Luke 18:1-8

Sermon Text = Luke 18:1



**Then Jesus told them a parable
about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.**

[Hymns = 712, 708, and 722 in the *Book of Praise*]

Key Ideas

1. Jesus teaching on this journey to Jerusalem has been tough stuff – you really want to follow me, here’s what it means – throughout Luke’s account, welcoming love to the outsider comes up over and over again – it’s a persistent pursuit of justice for all of God’s beloved friends – by being persistently awed by God and respecting all people
2. This is not something we can do on our own – this is not something we’ve been hard-wired to do through the social norms that shape most of our lives – we’ve been shaped by norms of division and superiority – we are better than they are – morally, racially, culturally, religiously etc – but if we are to accept the invitation to participate in what Jesus Christ has done for the healing of this creation, our home in this dimension of life, then we have to change such attitudes and behaviours – now, that is impossible without the help of God – and that’s where prayer becomes crucial
3. Prayer, as our graphic this morning suggests, is a simple, yet profound, ongoing conversation with the God who is revealed in Jesus as your best friend – the One with the will and the power to heal and encourage you to change and contribute your gifts to the realization of God’s Commonwealth
4. Let me suggest a flow for the practice of conversation with God that came to me this week – call → challenge → curiosity → counsel → contribution → calm – expect this to be a conversation that nourishes humility in you – in the call to conversation, there will always be a challenge to the ways you are thinking, feeling, and acting – the Spirit will stir your curiosity about the counsel of God, especially as revealed in Jesus, the Christ – that counsel will open up possibilities for contribution to God’s mission – and those contributions will foster a sense of calm that leaves you open to the next call – we step into the flourishing future that God has imagined for us one such conversation after another

At this stage in our ponderings, then ...

Prayer is daily conversation with God – listening, learning, living, and laughing – being encouraged by God’s grace in those conversations with your best friend – so you never lose heart in the pursuit of God’s justice in this world – God wants to constantly encourage us through the conversations he invites us to in prayer

Sermon notes of Rev Dr Brian Fraser,
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