

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 28A, 14-18 November 2011, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 90:1-12

Think:

'Teach us to count our days so that we may gain a wise heart.' (Verse 12)

I live near some big mountains, if I drive up the pass I can look back on my church, my neighbourhood, the place where I live out my life and realise how small I am.

If I meditate with the Psalmist on God's time and my time I realise how small I am in the scheme of all things.

This humbles me.

Pray:

Lord, teach us to count our days,
to make the most of every precious one of them,
to know their greatness and their smallness,
and to appreciate your care for every detail of our lives.

Amen

Tuesday **Old Testament**
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Think:

Zephaniah is four books away from the end of the Old Testament. Chapter 1 is hellfire and brimstone, but chapter 3 turns things positive - if you have a chance, read the whole book.

Chapter 1 is a word of warning; in a world addicted to affirmation its sometimes a good idea to hear criticism too.

Pray:

Lord, help me not to forget that I live by grace.
Amen

Wednesday **Epistle**
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Think:

As a counter to our reading from Zephaniah its good to read verse 9; 'God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...'

Its a wonderful thing to find your purpose in life; we were created to do good, to live according to Jesus commands.

So Paul reminds us to 'encourage one another and build each other up!'

Pray:

Pray for encouragement for those whom you know are discouraged. Ask God to send people to encourage you - especially in your struggles.

Thursday **Gospel**
Matthew 25:14-30

Think:

This parable is about a master returning to see what his slaves have done with his property. Perhaps its a reminder to us that what we have - our resources, gifts and abilities are not our own - they are God's.

Pray:

Offer God your resources, gifts and abilities again.

Friday **Next week's gospel**
Matthew 25:31-46

Think:

Justice is bad news for the guilty and good news for the innocent.

Pray:

Help us to live in such a way that this passage becomes good news for us.

Amen