

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 24A, 17-21 October 2011, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 96:1-13

Think:

'Worship the LORD in holy splendour; tremble before him, all the earth!' (Vs 9)

I am grateful for the fact that God reveals himself in the simplicity of Jesus his Son; at the same time - it helps to be mindful of the fact that God should be worshipped in 'holy splendour' and all the earth should 'tremble before him.'

Pray:

Spend some time worshipping God - and imagining the great sites of the world bowing down to worship a Holy and powerful God.

Tuesday

Old Testament

Isaiah 45:1-7

Think:

Isaiah 45:1-7 is not a very comfortable passage. In it the LORD speaks to Cyrus - a Persian ruler - who takes Judah into exile. Even though Cyrus is not a believer; God uses him to carry out his plans.

Isaiah sees the hand of providence even in the disasters that befall the people of Israel.

Pray:

Using Cyrus to carry Israel into exile is a last resort - Israel has carried on practicing injustice and ignoring God's call for too long.

Pray for the discipline to listen to God, help us as a church to be the people God calls us to be from day to day and moment to moment.

Wednesday

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Think:

I really like 1:8 '...the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you...'; I'm not sure if Paul is talking about preaching. I think of a gong or a bell whose vibrations create sound that travels for miles and miles in every direction.

I like to think that the Thessalonians live their faith SO passionately that people all over the world can not help but notice.

Pray:

Pray that we would radiate the word of the Lord from within our very beings as we strive to go about his business from day to day.

Thursday

Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

Think:

The Pharisees plot to entrap Jesus; to trip him up with his own words. Jesus is too clever, his answer is too smart. In fact it convicts them. On every coin is an image of the emperor - and so they belong to the emperor. On every human is the image of God - and so we belong to God.

Pray:

Lord help us to remember that it is in our fellow human beings that we see your image. It is so easy for us to make money a God in our lives; we get to the point where we love things and use people - yet you have called us to love people and use things.

Help us to get our values straight.

Friday

Next week's gospel

Matthew 22:34-46

Think:

Jesus asks a question that silences the Pharisees and Sadducees together. It seems to hang around whether the Messiah should be an earthly or heavenly ruler; he's not just David's son - he is Lord.

Pray:

Also in this passage, Jesus is asked about the greatest commandments.

Ask God for help in keeping these commandments.