

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 25A, 24-28 October 2011, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 1

Think:

When we follow God's direction we end up fulfilled - like trees planted by streams of water. When we avoid God's directions - we end up parched and thirsty.

We'd all like to be healthy and well nourished spiritually - but the temptations of the world we live in are too great!

Pray:

Pray that we would see the benefit of walking in the way of the Lord; knowing that - even though it might be difficult now; it will be worth it.

Perhaps it should be:

'...lead us not into times of trial, but deliver us from evil.'

Amen

Tuesday

Old Testament

Leviticus 19:1-2 and 15-18

Think:

'You shall be holy for I the Lord your God am holy!'

God wants us to be like him; and being 'holy' is not actually such a strange thing - as we read the laws that God lays out - its about living a loving and generous life; becoming 'whole'; or 'wholey.'

This scripture calls us not to slander, not to hate, not to take vengeance. All of these negative things that we do - or dream of doing diminish our humanity - make us less 'wholey'.

Pray:

Think of the things and people that make you angry; bring them to God - ask him to help you love them without resenting them.

Wednesday

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Think:

Paul describes the loving way in which he and his fellow evangelists ministered to the

Thessalonians. They didn't use flattery or seek praise; they just did the hard work of sharing themselves with the people to whom they ministered.

The most important work we have as Christians is not the task of preaching or making the gospel look good - but simply the task of loving God and people.

Pray:

Pray that God would foster in each of us a deep love for our neighbours. With that love - pray for the strength and courage to serve as God has called us to serve.

Thursday

Gospel

Matthew 22:34-46

Think:

The greatest commandment is really that simple. Love.

Pray:

Pray that God would help you to love your family and friends, co-workers, neighbours and congregants today.

Ask for a practical way in which to show that love to someone.

Friday

Next week's gospel

Matthew 23:1-12

Think:

'...they do not practice what they teach.' (Verse 3)

We have a lot of ideas, but little practical experience.

How can we as a church get practical?

Pray:

Pray that we would be humble enough to do the things we believe in.