

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 27A, 7-11 November, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 70

Think:

Sometimes when reading the Psalms one gets the feeling that the Psalmist may be a little paranoid; if the Psalmist was David, it makes sense. As a person of power - people wanted to usurp it; challenges even came from within his own family.

For those of us who are not so beset by physical enemies it might be helpful for us to consider our inner enemies; those things within us that 'desire to hurt us' or 'seek our lives'. These may be addictions, habits, diseases that we feel are out to hurt us.

Whatever seeks your life - consider verse 5; we need God's help.

Pray:

Pray verse 5: 'I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!'

Tuesday

Old Testament

Amos 5:18-24

Think:

This is an extremely powerful text that speaks of the poverty of worship without justice and righteousness.

'Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.' - Amos 5:23-24

Pray:

From the scripture we learn that 'song and dance' doesn't impress God. Pray honestly.

Wednesday

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Think:

Part of the Amos reading inspires a little bit of fear when speaking of the coming of the 'Day of the Lord'; it will not be a positive event for people who are not passionate about justice and righteousness. God will set us straight and that may be painful.

On the other hand - if you are working for justice and righteousness; the day of the Lord's return will be the day your work is completed.

Paul reminds Christians to encourage one another with the hope of the coming of the Lord.

Pray:

It's hard to keep faith when life gets complicated and the world seems to work against us. Pray for

the courage and the conviction to do justice and righteousness; and the words to encourage those around you.

Thursday

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Think:

I have officiated at a wedding where the bridegroom was more than an hour late, and lucky for him - the bride was an hour and a half late!

Some suggest that Palestinian weddings involved the bridesmaids processing out to fetch the groom and lighting his way to his bride; the lamps they used only lasted about 15 minutes and bridegrooms were notoriously late. It would bring disgrace on the bride to not be ready for him.

As strange as this custom may seem - the moral is easy - 'Are you ready?'

Pray:

Pray for the courage for us as a church and as individuals to live every day as you would if Jesus were coming tomorrow.

Friday

Next week's gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Think:

There is a certain amount of risk involved in investing five talents; what would the master do if he returned and the one to whom he had given five talents was left standing with nothing?

Are you willing to take a few risks for the Kingdom of God?

Pray:

Pray for the wisdom to know which 'risks' to take, and when to play things safe.