

Read - Think - Pray

21-25 February 2011
Epiphany 7A
Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm 119:33-40

Think:

'Teach me, O LORD, the meaning of your laws...'

I like that phrase. The laws combine to tell us something - that God loves us. They are laid down to protect us from ourselves and each other.

Pray:

Is there an aspect of God's law you are struggling to understand?

Ask for grace to understand and interpret God's laws.

Tuesday

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18

Think:

We'll understand more of what verse 2 means when we get to the gospel reading for this week. So keep it in mind.

I love the law expressed in verse 9-10; the instruction not to gather ALL the fruit of your fields; but to leave some for those in need.

Pray:

We've been selfish; we harvest more than we need - and fail to share with those who have nothing. Pray that we would learn to share.

Ask God to show us how to share.

Wednesday

1 Corinthians 3:10-11; 16-23

Think:

Verse 23: "You belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God."

Is this longhand for 'you belong to God'; I think it is. So many Christians I know suffer from a lack of self esteem; they don't feel clever enough, or spiritual enough - or whatever 'enough'. Because the people who make all the noise are the 'clever confident' ones.

Paul - after speaking of the Corinthians foolishness; their need for spiritual milk and not solid food - affirms them: 'Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you?' (Verse 16)

Pray:

Pray for confidence, especially for the timid and the quiet - that we would know God's power in us - that we would remember who we belong to - that every one who loves Jesus everywhere would find their voice in the body of Christ.

Thursday

Matthew 5:38-48

Think:

Note verse 48 'Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.' And Leviticus 19:2: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'

Our ambition is to be Christ Like; is to become 'perfect' as God is perfect.

And that perfection; that holiness, is expressed in God's embracing love.

The laws of Leviticus and of the beatitudes are fulfilled in 'Loving God and loving our neighbours.'

Pray:

Pray that we would have the grace to love even those whom we are often tempted to call our enemies.

Friday

Matthew 6:24-34

Think:

Also read the part skipped; Matthew 5:49-6:23.

Its hard not to worry - its difficult to entrust all to God; but God is worthy of our trust; God has shown us his love.

Pray:

Pray that we would have a sense of God's love for us - and the ability to surrender ourselves to his care.

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