

# Read - Think - Pray

Proper 11A, 18-22 July, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

**Monday**

**Psalm**

## Psalm 86:11-17

**Think:**

This Psalm is a prayer for help. The Psalmist is having a difficult time; in the chosen section of this Psalm the Psalmist appeals to God:

'Teach me your way, that I may walk in your truth...'  
An appeal for understanding - perhaps a polite way of saying 'what are you doing?'

**Pray:**

A summary prayer from Psalm 86:11-17:

Teach me your way,  
great is your steadfast love toward me,  
you are merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in faithful love.  
Turn to me, be gracious to me;  
give your strength to your servant.  
AMEN

**Tuesday**

**Old Testament**

## Isaiah 44:6-8

**Think:**

Many small gods compete for the position of 'God' in our lives.

'Who is like me?' asks God in Isaiah. Inviting response.

We set up so many gods; health, wealth, popularity, looks, convenience; if we loose any of them we mourn, we fear.

God, the LORD, the King of Israel says:

'Do not fear, or be afraid.'

And he really is God.

**Pray:**

Meditate on God's words:

'Do not fear, or be afraid.'

Whisper them to yourself - hear God speaking them, meditate on what scares you and allow God to speak comfort into your life.

**Wednesday**

**Epistle**

## Romans 8:12-25

**Think:**

'You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption.' - 8:15

The opposite of fear is hope and confidence. In this passage Paul reminds his readers that God is at work (remember Psalm 86 'Show me your ways...') and God will finish what God has started.

This moment, this time might be overwhelming you; the word of hope in scripture is that God will win in the end.

**Pray:**

Paul speaks of God's 'Sprit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.'

Pay attention to the Holy Spirit for a few minutes; in silence. Ask the Spirit to remind you that you are God's child.

**Thursday**

**Gospel**

## Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43

**Think:**

The parable of the Tares speaks of weeds that grow up among the wheat - but they are indistinguishable from the wheat until it reaches maturity. The farmer lets the weeds grow - but in the end harvests the wheat and burns the weeds.

In the light of last week's parable (of the farmer, the seeds and the soil) this is a parable of hope; God will eventually remove all hindrances to the Kingdom's coming.

**Pray:**

We pray 'Your Kingdom come, your will be done;' as we pray for God's Kingdom to come lets ask God to examine us - and see what in us gets in the way of the Kingdom and what helps it.

**Friday**

**Next week's gospel**

## Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**Think:**

More Kingdom parables. Focussing on the first two - the mustard tree seed and the yeast we notice that the Kingdom has the smallest beginnings.

What small beginnings can you make in your work for the Kingdom of God?

Perhaps its a small act of generosity? A small commitment?

**Pray:**

Pray that God would take our tiny seeds and grow them into great trees.

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