

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 23A, 10-14 October, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 23

Think:

Personally, I got stuck on the first phrase: 'I shall not want...'

I do a lot of 'wanting', often at the expense of appreciating the 'here and now'.

Perhaps its a good idea to stop at verse 1; to meditate on it, to remember 'whose you are' and stop wanting to be somewhere else.

Pray:

Lord, help me not too want, but to be content because you are my shepherd.

Tuesday

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:1-9

Think:

Most of the Old Testament is forged in the context of suffering. Isaiah deals mainly with exile; the people of Israel held captive, conquered, taken into slavery.

The promise of Isaiah is God's inevitable victory over suffering and struggle: 'Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces...' -25:8

Pray:

Lord, when life is tough, help me not to lose hope - help me with Isaiah to be able to see the 'bigger picture.'

Wednesday

Epistle

Philippians 4:1-9

Think:

'...whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.' - 4:8

What do you think about?

Pray:

Lord, help me to think about the good - more than the bad, and help me to become the good you want me to be.

Amen

Thursday

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Think:

Isaiah and the Psalmist (Tuesday and Monday) speak of a feast. Those who 'have enough' spend a lot of

time feasting, but for a conquered nation, broken by war - taken into exile; a feast sounds like heaven!

In Jesus' day regular people only got to eat meat when someone rich, like a king offered it. A feast was an occasion; to be celebrated.

Are we responding appropriately to our 'invitation' to the feast?

Pray:

Lord, help me to put on my 'wedding robes' as I appreciate the fact that you have invited me and accepted me as a guest at your table.

Amen

Friday

Next week's gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

Think:

I don't think this passage has anything to do with paying taxes (I do think we should pay tax though).

What I believe Jesus is suggesting is that the Pharisees take their money with the emperor's image on it and give it back. If no one wants money - it becomes worthless.

On the other hand - people are all bearers of God's image; and as such ALL people belong to God.

Pray:

Help me to recognise your image in me - and in those around me.