

DAILY REFLECTIONS
TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020
LOCKDOWN DAY 208

READINGS

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

PSALM 85:8-13

LUKE 12:35-38

COLLECT

Holy God

you govern all things in heaven and on earth
enable us to be obedient to your authority
that serving you in the world
we will be faithful witnesses of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit one God now and ever.
AMEN

Ephesians 2:11-22

In this letter, to the Ephesians Paul emphasizes the ways that God has transformed the lives of the Gentiles

In Ephesians 2:11-12 we read *“Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) — remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

V13-14 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

The Gentiles were once far off, but Christ has brought them near. They had lived in darkness, but Christ has brought them into the light. His blood has washed away their sins—has brought them forgiveness—has made them holy—has conferred on them the rights and privileges associated with citizenship in the kingdom of God.

Paul reminds them before they can fully appreciate what God has done for them, the Gentiles need to remember where they came from—who they were.

One of the secrets of successful living is remembering the things that can help us—and forgetting the things that could drag us down

We all have a tendency to think in terms of “them” versus “us.” We are drawn to those who are like us and dislike those who are not. But Christ calls us to love our neighbour, even people that are different from us.

LUKE 12:35-38

Today's gospel reading refers to the waiting and be ready for the Second coming of Jesus Christ. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is one of the most repeated teachings in all of Scripture.

What does it mean to Be Ready?

It means to be **Prepared**: V 35 *“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet so that when he comes and knock they can immediately open the door for him”*

This means we must be prepared ready for actions and service –to spread the good news. Be ready with our lamps burning so that we can be a beacon of hope (light) to people who are going through despair and difficult times.

It means be **Patient**: In v 38 we read *“It will be good for that servant if the master find them ready even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night*

The master's return may be delayed, but the master's servants must nevertheless be ready. Jesus doesn't teach us a precise timetable for his return. -- But we must not give up.

It means to **Persevere** --waiting for the return of Jesus is not easy it. Waiting is difficult, maybe even impossible. But we still hold out hope, even if hope is small and sometimes feels ridiculous. A tiny lamp, but it's still lit".

Let us always be prepared, patient and persevere whatever we are going through

PSALM 85:8-13

The psalm is a prayer in the midst of crisis for the ancient faith community. They prayed for joy, joy that can come from God's presence in the midst of the challenges. It is divided into three parts:

God's previous restoration of the community (verses 1-3)

A plea for God to bring restoration in a new crisis (verses 4-7)

A message of assurance that God will save them (vv. 8-13). (Verses 8-13)

In verses 8-13 the psalmist says he will listen to what God will say because God promises peace, -- an inner peace. In these verses the psalmist expressed surrender and submission to God. The proper attitude for us as believers is to surrender to the authority of God's word in times of difficulties and crises

Loving God,

We remember that we are surrounded by your love.

Help us to be open to the people around us and to find the way together through this crisis.

Help us to be present with people,

in the name of Jesus who was in the midst of those who were frightened, isolated, sick and dying,

announcing the Kingdom of God. AMEN