



Sunday 30th August 2020

Notes from our Sunday Morning
Pre-recorded Worship

Welcome

Song

Trust in the Lord

Verse 1

Noah was a righteous man,
God told him "Go build an ark"
And though people laughed, at this great raft
He followed the Lord's com-mand
Oh yes he followed the Lord's command

Chorus

I will trust in the Lord like Noah, (2:Esther) (3:Daniel) Trust Him with all my heart
I have nothing to fear for I know
That He is by my side,
He's by my side

Verse 2

Esther, the cour-ageous Queen
God called her to save His peeps
Though she could have died,
She did not hide
She followed the Lord's com-mand,
Oh yes she followed the Lord's command

Verse 3

Daniel was a man of prayer
"Pray only to me" God said
And though he was thrown, to the li-on's home
He followed the Lord's com-mand
Oh yes he followed the Lord's com-mand

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Reading: Daniel 6:1-10

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' [a]; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and

when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Talk by John Cross – "Love Others"

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.... [Luke 10: 25]

'What must I do to inherit eternal life?'

'And behold, a certain lawyer stood up...' [KJV]

Jesus asked the lawyer what was written in the Law about his question.

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart - & with your soul - & with all your strength - and with all your mind.... - and Love your neighbour as yourself' [10: 27]

Jesus told him to go and do the same.

So the lawyer asked Jesus 'who is my neighbour?'

Turns out that Jesus tells this guy who the carer was. And of course it's a shocking answer because it isn't a lawyer - in fact it was a member of a race whom the Jews hated.

In the story he tells to answer the question, Jesus talks about people from 2 highly respected professions - and rejects these. He then chooses someone with an unknown occupation or place in society - from hated race.

The Lawyer - almost certainly Jewish - would have totally respected Priests & Levites but have very little time for Samaritans. He wanted to catch Jesus out, and win the point, but it turns out that Jesus catches him out and challenges him very deeply.

The Samaritan did the right thing but was the wrong person.

If the lawyer had been told that one of his kind of people was getting his hands dirty, he would have found the answer challenging - but presumably acceptable.

What would the Priest & the Levite have needed to do to make the story turn out right?

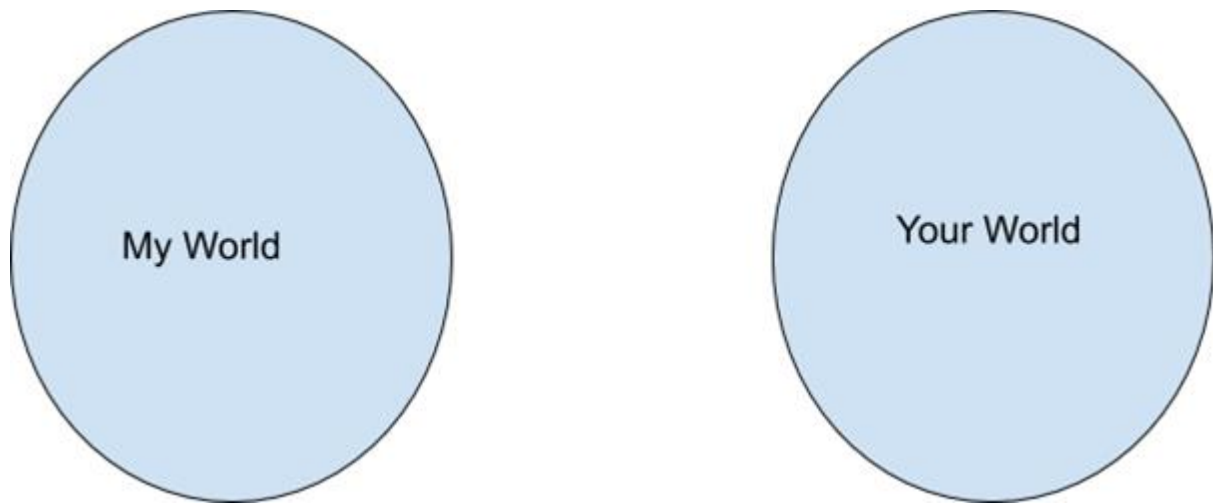
Here we can see the dimensions of loving others.

1. Getting involved in unpleasant stuff & putting aside their dignity
2. Losing time - maybe needed to get from A to B quickly
3. Allowing themselves to become ritually unclean - and then others would need to do what they did for a while.
4. One commentator has remarked that 'it was more important to stay ritually clean, than to check if the man was still alive'.

Emotionally healthy spirituality - loving others

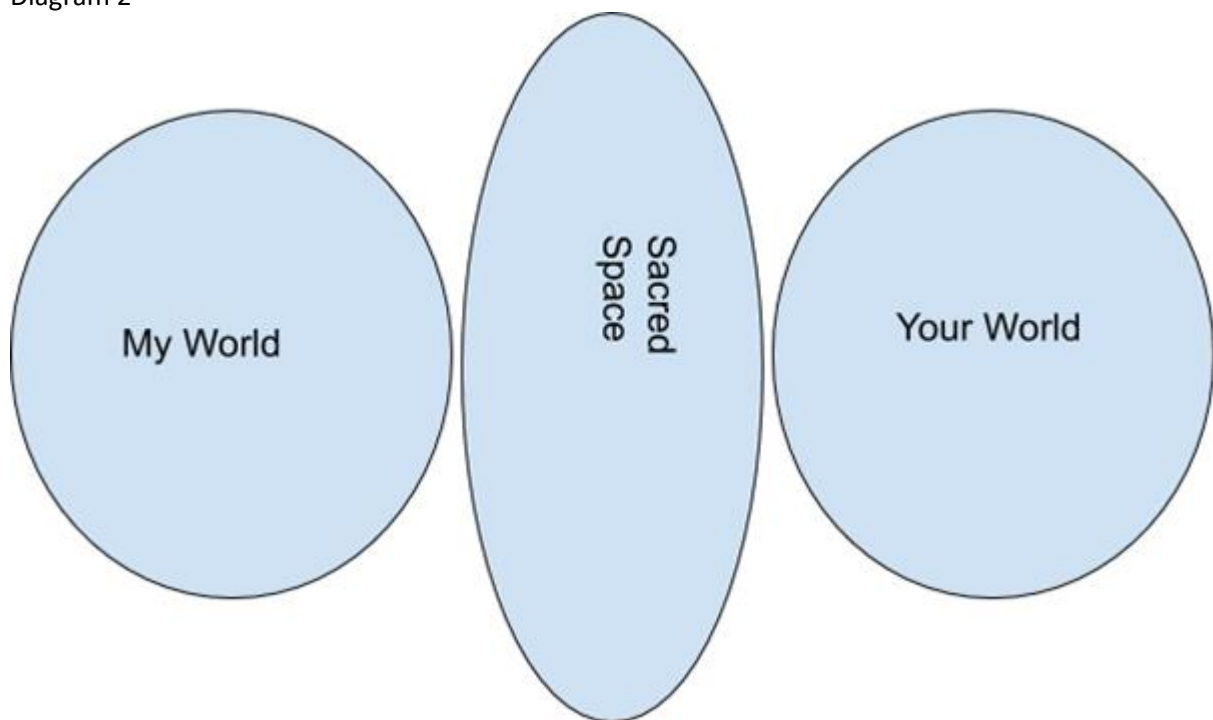
'Me' focussed relationships. My needs..... What others can do for me.

Diagram 1



In this picture: our own world becomes disconnected from other people's worlds because we treat people as 'objects' to meet our needs rather than people, like us, made in the Image of God.

Diagram 2



In this picture, relationships are based on seeing others too as made on God's Image.

People are willing to connect across their differences with God himself inspiring and empowering the relating and the loving-others.

Some things to think about:

Am I a Samaritan, a Priest or a Levite?

Who is represented today for me by the beaten-up man?

Have I got compassion to spare - or overload?

Am I inside or outside my comfort zones with the people I interact with?

Am I the hurt person?

Who is stopping to help?

As I've been thinking about what Jesus said to this questioning lawyer, I've been wrestling with what was at the heart of the problem that the first 2 people had with helping the badly hurt man, and why was the Samaritan person able to help.

On top of the ritual cleanliness thing, I've felt that the first 2 people had stuff they couldn't put down - in order to 'love another'. The Priest had an important role, and probably saw his identity in terms of being a Priest. Leading worship and representing the people before God was his stuff. The Levite too had a key role in the Temple: descended as they were from Levi and working alongside the priests in worship.

The Twitter story from Anna Lapwood: Organist; BBC Music correspondent & Director of Music at Pembroke College Cambridge

I've just had the most extraordinary morning. I was waiting to get on the train to work & an elderly man asked me if the train was going to Cambridge. I said it was, & we got chatting - his name is JJ. He had been shielding for 5 1/2 months & said his mental health had hit rock bottom. He dropped his phone 1 week in while cleaning it & the screen smashed, but he had no way of contacting anyone to arrange a replacement so he just didn't speak to anyone that whole time.

He has no family, & struggled to get food because he couldn't go to a cash machine for money to pay food delivery. We kept chatting on the train - his dog also had to be put down just before lockdown - by this point we were both crying and he said that he didn't mind because sometimes it just feels good to sob with someone else.

We reached Cambridge and he was struggling to get over the footbridge - he revealed he had emphysema and stopped to take his inhaler - he said he's scared to go out because of all the people not wearing masks, but he just missed people too much.

We ended up going for a cup of tea and chatting for another 2 hours; he was a soldier for 22 years and was shot twice saving a 19 yr old new recruit.

He didn't mind because he said 'at least I was doing what I was trained to do & making a difference.' He has lived the most extraordinary life & seeing him light up talking about it was just so moving.

We swapped numbers & have arranged to go for a drink soon - 'just platonic, don't worry', he said with a wink.

I'm certainly someone who is guilty of living my life at a million miles an hour & in normal circumstances might not have stopped to chat to him. I'm SO glad I did.

Summary

Loving others means

1. Thinking of others - like us made in the image of God
2. Learning to see ourselves as somewhat less important and other people we are called to love - more important
3. Being willing to move out of our comfort zones
4. Mixing with people who are not just like us; including in our circle not just people like us.....
5. Being sacrificial with our time & our resources where we sense we're called to do that

However

1. We need to protect ourselves if situations are difficult, which sometimes means setting boundaries [The Samaritan still went on his trip]
2. Getting emotionally exhausted is not some kind of test of our spirituality
3. Sharing burdens is healthy, as is accountability

Some ministry time for us all:

We need to be healed ourselves to help others.

Let's be the man by the roadside, and Jesus himself - the ultimate Good Samaritan - comes along.

He comes to where we are; not where we should be, or where we'd like to be.

Seeing us he has pity in his heart. Jesus wept when his friend Lazarus died.

Jesus sees you. He sees it all and loves you.

Tell Jesus where the wounds are for you. Are they old or new? Are they physical, emotional or even spiritual? Are we hurting in ways because of what Covid has done to our way of life. Jesus my wounds are

Tell Jesus what kind of safe place we need to be in, and how he might carry us today.

Thank Jesus that He didn't just give up 2 days wages but His whole life so we could have eternal life with God.

Let's spend time with Him now.

Psalm 103: 2-3

2 Praise the Lord, my soul
and forget not all his benefits –
3 who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases.

Amen

Intercessions

Lord we thank you for the wonder of this new week and for all it holds in store. We pray that it may be good and holy, and that we might be aware of your presence in all that we do. We bring before you our worship, our work, and the conversations we will have- and ask that you will help us to act and speak in a way pleasing to you.

This morning we particularly lift up those who are preparing to start the new term and academic year this week- for teachers and lecturers, students, schools, universities and for those returning to work after lockdown... We pray for the well-being of school leaders and their teams, for policy makers in the work place- that you would sustain them as they daily work out how to best create safe places for people to work, and learn, and thrive.

We pray that you would give strength and courage to those who are feeling worried, and that people starting in new places would find good rhythms of work and rest, friends among new faces, and a sense of your guidance and comfort as they settle into new places or roles.

We lift up to you those who will find this week long and hard, and those who are unwell. In a moment of silence, we name in our hearts any people we know in special need of your hope, healing, and comfort.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

We pray for the parts of the world which are especially in need of healing at the moment.

We continue to pray for Beirut in **Lebanon** in the wake of the explosion a couple of weeks ago, and for communities affected by the hurricane in Louisiana and Texas. May you strengthen and give endurance to those who are supplying aid, providing medical attention and those working to rebuild homes and livelihoods. We pray for wisdom as future support systems are strategized and recovery and rebuilding efforts begin.

As civil unrest continues in the US after the shooting of Jacob Blake, we continue pray for your justice to prevail over racism and othering. Lord bring to light our own prejudices and shape us to be a people who see the image of God in those around us and who witness to your boundary crossing love as we wait in hope of the world as it will be when your kingdom comes in all its fullness.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Finally, Lord, we pray for our church- we thank you for the holiday clubs of last week and ask that you would continue to grow and nurture the seeds of faith that have been planted in the hearts of those who attended.

We pray for your wisdom and protection as we begin to re-gather physically and online this term and as we start our new sermon series next week. May you open our hearts and minds that we might grow in our love for you in new ways this season. **Amen.**

Songs

New Wine

Verse

In the crushing in the pressing
You are making new wine
In the soil I now surrender
You are breaking new ground
(You are breaking new ground)

Pre-Chorus

So I yield to You and to Your careful hand
When I trust You I don't need to understand

Chorus

(So) Make me Your vessel
Make me an offering
Make me whatever You want me to be
(God) I came here with nothing
But all You have given me
Jesus bring new wine out of me

Jesus bring new wine out of me
Jesus bring new wine out of me

Bridge

'Cause where there is new wine
There is new power
There is new freedom
And the kingdom is here
I lay down my old flames
To carry Your new fire today

Before The Throne Of God Above

Verse 1

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

Chorus

Hallelujah
My life is found in Jesus Christ
Hallelujah
For I am His and He is mine

Verse 2

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Verse 3

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God
With Christ my Saviour and my God

Verse 4

I bow before the cross of Christ
And marvel at this love divine
God's perfect Son was sacrificed
To make me righteous in God's eyes
This river's depths I cannot know
But I can glory in its flood
The Lord Most High has bowed down low
And poured on me His glorious love
And poured on me His glorious love

Family News

Our Wednesday Morning Liturgical Services continues this week at 9am. Do see the Sunday email with full details or contact the Church Office for more information. (01483 455333/ office@st-saviours.org.uk).

The Church will be open for private prayer from Monday to Wednesday this week, 10am to 1pm. Please wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) if you are visiting the church for private prayer or for any other reason. Do get in contact with the church office if you have any questions or would like to chat further.

If you're new to St Saviour's and are interested in joining our Welcome Course in the autumn or chatting further with one of the team, we'd love to hear from you! Do get in contact with us via the Church Office. We're really looking forward to getting to know you, and helping you get stuck in.

We're excited to be launching Daily Psalm from 1st September. These will be short video reflections with a Psalm-a-day filmed by you the church family and accessible on YouTube or via a daily email. Contact the church office to sign up to our mailing list to receive them, and if you'd like to film one, please do get in touch with Joy.

Furnace is back on Weds 2nd September at 8pm on Zoom. We will be praying for the term ahead, our town and our world, worshipping together creatively and seeking God's heart. Do bring along some paper, pencils and art materials if you have some. We'll be engaging in worship and listening to God in some creative ways. If you'd like to sign-up for specific email reminders and details about Furnace in the future, do contact the church office.

24/7 Prayer - Off the back of Vision Sunday, we will be seeking God in prayer as a church family. From Monday 14th September - Sunday 20th September we will be holding a whole week of 24/7 Prayer. We are encouraging all our church family to book a slot and to make your own prayer space at home. We will also be sending out daily emails with major prayer points for the day, but you will have to sign-up and opt-in to receive these. We will be providing some creative prayer resources and ideas for making your prayer room at home. We will also be continuing to offer the main church space during the daytime of this week as a space to pray too, with a visual Prayer Walk in the main church helping us to emotionally process the last few months. There's lots happening this week so do sign-up to receive all this information from Joy. Do contact the church office to receive the 24/7 Prayer Week packs and daily emails.