

# twelvebaskets

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## ORDINARY 28B

13th October 2024

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

Take time to find something in your home that you hold as precious and important. It may be a photograph, a flower or personal item.

Whatever you choose consider:

- What is it that makes it important to you?
- What memories does it hold?
- How do you feel about it and what would happen if you lost it?

Now imagine that God is holding you as precious and important:

- Loving and caring for you and your unique character
- Following your journey of faith
- Wanting never to lose you

When you feel able put down your object and pick up again these written words:

Come then to worship, knowing that whatever you offer in this moment is precious and important,

Amen.

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.**

**Reading:** Mark 10:17-31 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

As part of your response to this week's gospel reading, you might be interested in the third of three short video Bible Studies that 12baskets has helped to put together for The Methodist Church and last week's 3Generate youth event. The third in the series is called 'All Things are Possible' and looks at this same passage from Mark – you can watch it here: [YouTube](#)

What does it mean to be righteous? What framework do we hold onto that indicates what it means to be of right manner, or right state. We all have a moral framework - a way of putting our values into practice, a way of guiding what we do, and sometimes a way of judging the behaviour of others. On many things, our frameworks overlap and we agree, but no two people will have exactly the same framework. Even as people of Christian faith, we disagree about how the framework should look - even individual church organisations differ from one another and on many topics within those organisations people hold a variety of views.

It's made even more complex by views changing over time. The creative ability God has gifted us with has enabled us to make new discoveries that shed light on how we see things. Our framework and moral priorities shift as we journey as God's people. We've increasingly recognised in recent years how our living is impacting the environment, and so

our approach to the environment begins to become more significant in our moral framework and we change our behaviour to be better people in our stewardship of the earth. We begin to see destruction of the planet as part of sinful behaviour, and so recognise things that help to look after the planet as righteous acts.

Jesus has a difficult challenge for the man in our reading today. How does that challenge land with us? What are the things that are getting in the way of our developing relationship with God?

While the challenge of living a faithful life is difficult, our love from God does not rely on us. In Mark's gospel, Jesus outlines the challenge that faith requires: living not just the commandments, but a life in service of others by giving away what you have. The disciples are astounded by the standard required, the level of righteousness needed, and yet, in the midst of the heavy demands, Jesus remind them, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27)

We are called to do our best for the Realm of God, living lives that offer God our best. And even though we don't understand why things are as they are, or how we do things in the right way, it is God who makes things possible so that in love, we all will be saved and perfected for the sake of the Realm of God and its fulfilling that is to come.

### **Hymn:**

277 STF – My song is love unknown - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

I want to live in a world more like your kingdom,  
And less like the kingdom of greed we find ourselves in.

No longer the kingdom of comfort,  
But forever, the Kingdom of heaven.

Be at work in me, Lord God, by your Spirit,  
That this Kingdom may come a little closer today,

Amen.

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## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers**

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

- If you can, go on a prayer walk. Or ask someone to help you make a journey around your neighbourhood – just the few houses near you would be fine, or go on a longer trip if you'd like to take in a whole estate or community.
- As you travel past each house, pray for the people who live there – just in your mind, or under your breath. Hold their situations, whether you know them or not, in your heart.

## **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

- Loving God, send your Spirit.
- For all those who are on the margins, who are told that they are not welcome, I pray that they might know that your love is for all.
- I pray that you show me how to be to be part of the solution where suffering is the problem.
- Loving God, send your Spirit. Amen.

## **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

- The German theologian Meister Eckhart once said, 'if the only prayer you ever say in your life is "thank you", that will be enough'.
- Today, throughout the day (or whatever is left of the day), simply look for opportunities to pray the words 'thank you' to God.
- Thank you for the sunrise. Thank you that I have enough food for the day. Thank you for my health, such as it is. Thank you for that lovely conversation with a friend. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Amen.

## **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

- God of all blessings,  
Thank you for the gift of food to eat,  
For the flavours and the smells,
- The energy and enjoyment I can get from the food I eat.
- I'm sorry for all the times I've taken for granted the food on my plate, the ingredients in my fridge, the ready meals in my freezer.
- And for all the other blessings I have received that I often overlook or forget to be thankful for. Thank you Lord, for you are good to me. Amen.

## **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

- Be still.
- Be still and know that I am God.
- Be still for the presence of the Lord is in this place.
- Find spaces for stillness today. Be still, with no objective or intention, other than stillness, which is an end in itself.

## **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

- Gracious God, I know you have plans for me- plans for me to be a part of your kingdom and an agent of love in the world.
- This weekend, show me how to respond to the invitations I might receive. Help me to be open to the opportunities to share your love.
- In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.