

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

### Psalm 1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

**<sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.

**<sup>4</sup> Not so the wicked! they are like chaff that the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup> For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

### Mark 9:38-end

*Whoever is not against us is for us*

<sup>38</sup> ‘Teacher,’ said John, ‘we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.’

<sup>39</sup> ‘Do not stop him,’ Jesus said. ‘For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, <sup>40</sup> for whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

*Causing to stumble*

<sup>42</sup> ‘If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in me – to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung round their neck and they were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

<sup>49</sup> Everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> ‘Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.’

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

### Psalm 5

Listen to my words, LORD, consider my lament.

**<sup>2</sup> Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray.**

<sup>3</sup> In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

**<sup>4</sup> For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;  
with you, evil people are not welcome.**

<sup>5</sup> The arrogant cannot stand in your presence. You hate all who do wrong;

**<sup>6</sup> You destroy those who tell lies. The bloodthirsty and deceitful you, LORD, detest.**

<sup>7</sup> But I, by your great love, can come into your house; in reverence I bow down towards your holy temple.

**<sup>8</sup> Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies –  
make your way straight before me.**

<sup>9</sup> Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with malice. Their throat is an open grave; with their tongues they tell lies.

**<sup>10</sup> Declare them guilty, O God! Let their intrigues be their downfall.  
Banish them for their many sins, for they have rebelled against you.**

<sup>11</sup> But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your protection over them,

that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

**<sup>12</sup> Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous;**

**you surround them with your favour as with a shield.**

### Mark:10-1-16

<sup>10</sup> Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. <sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’ <sup>3</sup> ‘What did Moses command you?’ he replied.

<sup>4</sup> They said, ‘Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.’ <sup>5</sup> ‘It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,’ Jesus replied. <sup>6</sup> ‘But at the beginning of creation God “made them male and female”.

<sup>7</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two will become one flesh.” So

they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

<sup>10</sup> When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this.

<sup>11</sup> He answered, 'Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup> And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.'

#### ***The little children and Jesus***

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' <sup>16</sup> And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

#### **Psalm 119:1-22**

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

**<sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart –**

<sup>3</sup> they do no wrong but follow his ways.

**<sup>4</sup> You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.**

<sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

**<sup>6</sup> Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.**

<sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.

**<sup>8</sup> I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.**

<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

**<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.**

<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

**<sup>12</sup> Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.**

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

**<sup>14</sup> I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.**

<sup>15</sup> I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

**<sup>16</sup> I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.**

<sup>17</sup> Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your word.

**<sup>18</sup> Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.**

<sup>19</sup> I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me.

**<sup>20</sup> My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.**

<sup>21</sup> You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed,  
those who stray from your commands.

**<sup>22</sup> Remove from me scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes.**

<sup>23</sup> Though rulers sit together and slander me,  
your servant will meditate on your decrees.

**<sup>24</sup> Your statutes are my delight; they are my counsellors.**

<sup>25</sup> I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.

**<sup>26</sup> I gave an account of my ways and you answered me;  
teach me your decrees.**

<sup>27</sup> Cause me to understand the way of your precepts,  
that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.

**<sup>28</sup> My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.**

<sup>29</sup> Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your law.

**<sup>30</sup> I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.**

<sup>31</sup> I hold fast to your statutes, LORD; do not let me be put to shame.

**<sup>32</sup> I run in the path of your commands,  
for you have broadened my understanding.**

#### **Mark 10:17-31**

<sup>17</sup> As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. 'Good teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

<sup>18</sup> 'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good – except God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother."' <sup>20</sup> 'Teacher,' he declared, 'all these I have kept since I was a boy.' <sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'

<sup>22</sup> At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!'

<sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go

through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’

<sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, ‘Who then can be saved?’

<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.’

<sup>28</sup> Then Peter spoke up, ‘We have left everything to follow you!’

<sup>29</sup> ‘Truly I tell you,’ Jesus replied, ‘no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields – along with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.’

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September

#### **Psalm 15**

LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

<sup>2</sup> **The one whose way of life is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbour, and casts no slur on others;

<sup>4</sup> **who despises a vile person but honours those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;**

<sup>5</sup> who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

#### **Mark 10:32-34**

<sup>32</sup> They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.

<sup>33</sup> ‘We are going up to Jerusalem,’ he said, ‘and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, <sup>34</sup> who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.’

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September

#### **Psalm 19**

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

<sup>2</sup> **Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

<sup>4</sup> **Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

<sup>6</sup> **It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup> **The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

<sup>10</sup> **They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from wilful sins; may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> **May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

#### **Mark 10:35-45**

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. ‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we want you to do for us whatever we ask.’ <sup>36</sup> ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ he asked. <sup>37</sup> They replied, ‘Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.’ <sup>38</sup> ‘You don’t know what you are asking,’ Jesus said. ‘Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?’ <sup>39</sup> ‘We can,’ they answered. Jesus said to them, ‘You will drink the cup I drink and be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with, <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.’

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.  
<sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’

## **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

### **Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths  
for his name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### **Mark 10:46-end**

<sup>46</sup> Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means ‘son of Timaeus’), was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’

<sup>48</sup> Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more,  
‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’

<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’

So they called to the blind man, ‘Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.’

<sup>50</sup> Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup> ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’

<sup>52</sup> ‘Go,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.