

Lectionary passages:-

Deuteronomy 34 v1-2;

Leviticus 19 v1-2, v15-18;

I Thessalonians 2 v1-8;

Matthew 22 v34-46

The passage in Matthew is one of those that linger in the mind. It is the time when Jesus is asked "which is the greatest command"; Jesus gives good value in his answer!

He gives us the first two commands on his list.... Love the Lord your God with all your Heart, Soul, Body, and Mind, the second is likewise Love your Neighbour as you love yourself.

Jesus sees this as a summary of the Ten Commandments. I am sure you will agree that if these were kept by everyone then we would live in a perfect and wonderful world!

In Luke's gospel Jesus goes on to explain how it might look to keep such a command concerning one's neighbour...he tells the story of the Good Samaritan.

These are easy to trip off the tongue but not easy to do and keep. How can one Love God and one's neighbour like that?

Surely it is only when the power of God is in our lives that we are enabled to do so.

It is not something that happens naturally, we need help - divine help.

Paul's first letter to Thessalonians, chapter 2 as quoted above is one of those chapters where Paul behaves very much in line with these commands of Jesus.

1. He takes the gospel, the good news of the message of God in Jesus Christ, with all the suffering that entails for him and his friend to various towns like Thessalonica. It is not a job done from wrong motives to impress or whatever but Paul seeks to share God and does it not by just preaching but he shares his life with them too, he is with them, no hit and run ministry, he pastors and cares for them as the good Samaritan did for the man on the side of the road. No, not for their physical needs, but their spiritual needs in this case.
2. There is no greed or ulterior motive, Paul says he did not wear a mask to cover up any wrong attitudes on his part; he comes to genuinely, and in costly service, give and pass on the grace of God in Jesus Christ.
3. Paul says he is like a mother caring for her children and shows us another picture of how we can love God and be our neighbours by sharing, caring and giving of ourselves as a mother does for her children.

Service Notes 25th October 2020

It is the example for us to follow as we seek to share the gospel and share our lives with others. It is not about telling, but more showing/living God's love, it is not part time!

Teachers go home at night and do not need to do as they have taught; a Mother or a Father is with their family always, the children know how genuine a Mother is because she never has a day off from being mum! This is our example for our Christian life, we live it with the care of others always on our hearts, there is no holiday or day off from our faith!

We all have our own ways of fulfilling these commands, but God and our neighbours need to be high on our daily priorities, very much interconnected. As Christians, like a parent, we take our responsibilities seriously, lives and futures depend on it!