

Weekly Newsletter Sunday 16 February 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

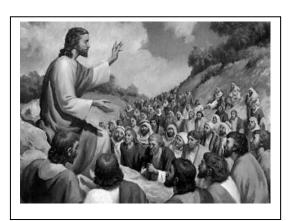
A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to St Johns.

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time with us.

Today's theme: "Heart of the Matter"

Focus Scripture Matthew 5:21-37

Other Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20



In this week's reading, Jesus first presents three powerful images to describe those gathered. He says: you are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world, and a city built on a hill. Jesus uses these images to help his listeners understand their relationship with God through their obedience to the law and to explain his relationship with the law and his vision for his listener's continued faithfulness to the law. The images offered by Jesus do not offer a blanket blessing for his listeners; possibly, his words offer a vision for what the fulfillment and accomplishment of the law might look like.

Matthew 5: 21-37 (NIV) The Sermon on the Mount (continued) "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King..... Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

NEXT WEEK:

Sunday Worship: 23 February 2014

Theme: "Love Disarms"

Focus Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48

Other Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40, 1Corinthians 3:10-11,6-23

Prayer Points: Please pray for: Sheila as she recovers from her shoulder operation; George Morrison as he recovers from the removal of a growth on his kidney; Laurel Leach with her medical concerns whilst in hospital; Ray Chisholm with his illness; Bob Corbett and his family with the loss of Bob's father.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

Church Picnic:- After Church today, Sunday 16 February from midday. The Hancock house will be open for you to bring your picnic lunch and enjoy some time together with games for the younger ones or younger ones at heart and the BBQ will be on.

Update on Joy Rzoska... Joy is now living in the hospital care facility of Summerset in the Park on Flat Bush School Road. Her room number is 21. For postal address it is:- Joy Rzoska, C/o 'Summerset', 7 Flat Bush School Road, Auckland, 2016. Please call Julie if you wish to know more.

Anglican TV :- "History tells us that the Treaty of Waitangi suffered in its execution. But it is our Treaty, our starting point. The more we come to understand its imperfections the more we see ourselves, our raw dreams and hopes. This week on www.anglicantv.net the third in our four part series on how the Treaty came to be."

Real Life: This Sunday night (16th February) John Cowan's guest will be New Zealand television presenter, Toni Street.

Middlemore: The dates for this year's Middlemore visits are May 18 and October 19. Please put them in your diary and I will put a reminder in the notices a few weeks prior. Thank you.