



True Teacher (part two) - Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk!

A service by Zoom on Sunday 1st November 2020

Welcome with sung *God Welcomes All*

Introduction

We continue to follow Matthew's Gospel and think again about Jesus's teaching ...and the teaching of others! We pick up especially on the last question posed to us all last week by Roberta i.e. "What questions does today's Bible reading raise about the priorities of the church?"

Worship through song and prayer

Song/hymn – As the deer pants for the water – (Singing the Faith 544)

1. As the deer pants for the water so my
soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire and I long
to worship you

*You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire and I long
to worship You*

2. I want you more than gold or silver, only
you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver and the
apple of my eye

*You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire and I long
to worship You*

3. You're my Friend and You are my
brother even though You are a King
I love You more than any other so much
more than anything

*You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire and I long
to worship You*

Martin J. Nystrom (b. 1956)

Prayers

A time of silence while we think of those we know and perhaps those we do not for whom we will pray today and this week.

Prayers as we come together and approach God

Prayer of praise – with response

We lift up our hands.

We lift up our voices.

We lift up our hearts.

We lift up our lives.

Search us, O God, and bring us deeper
into the justice of your life-giving Word.

Call us, O God, into knowing more of life –
**your Word is life, so may we find life
with each other.**

We rejoice in your never-failing invitation
**to celebrate and engage with your
welcome.**

Amen.

Reading – Matthew 23.1-12

Jesus Warns against the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees

23 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples. ²“The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees are the authorized interpreters of Moses' Law. ³ So you must obey and follow everything they tell you to do; do not, however, imitate their actions, because they don't practice what they preach. ⁴ They tie onto people's backs loads that are heavy and hard to carry, yet they aren't willing even to lift a finger to help them carry those loads. ⁵ They do everything so that people will see them. Look at the straps with scripture verses on them which they wear on their foreheads and arms and notice how large they are! Notice also how long are the tassels on their cloaks! ⁶ They love the best places at feasts and the reserved seats in the synagogues; ⁷ they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them 'Teacher.' ⁸ You must not be called 'Teacher,' because you are all equal and have only one Teacher. ⁹ And you must not call anyone here on earth 'Father,' because you have only the one Father in heaven. ¹⁰ Nor should you be called 'Leader,' because your one and only leader is the Messiah. ¹¹ The greatest one among you must be your servant. ¹² Whoever makes himself great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be made great.

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Reflection part 1 – Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk!

A question to ponder - Who do you think of today as a good leader?

Reading – 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13

⁶ We did not try to get praise from anyone, either from you or from others, ⁷ even though as apostles of Christ we could have made demands on you. But we were gentle when we were with you, like a mother taking care of her children. ⁸ Because of our love for you we were ready to share with you not only the Good News from God but even our own lives. You were so dear to us! ⁹ Surely you remember, our friends, how we worked and toiled! We worked day and night so that we would not be any trouble to you as we preached to you the Good News from God.

¹⁰ You are our witnesses, and so is God, that our conduct toward you who believe was pure, right, and without fault. ¹¹ You know that we treated each one of you just as parents treat their own children. ¹² We encouraged you, we comforted you, and we kept urging you to live the kind of life that pleases God, who calls you to share in his own Kingdom and glory.

¹³ And there is another reason why we always give thanks to God. When we brought you God's message, you heard it and accepted it, not as a message from human beings but as God's message, which indeed it is. For God is at work in you who believe.

Reflection part 2

A further question – Who do you think of as a good leader for Christ?

Song/hymn – Brother, sister let me serve you – StF 611

1. Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've
seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard A. M. Gillard (b. 1953)

Prayers for others

Today, we pray for all who feel isolated.
In their uniqueness, they may also feel alone.
This is most of us, some of the time,
but it is some of us most of the time.
God of encounter, may we all turn with love and interest
towards those who have been isolated.
God of encounter:
hear our prayer.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Song/hymn – Jesus Christ is waiting – StF 251

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
Waiting in the streets;
No one is his neighbour,
All alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you

2. Jesus Christ is raging,
Raging in the streets,
Where injustice spirals
And real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
Let me rage with you.

3. Jesus Christ is healing,
Healing in the streets;
Curing those who suffer,
Touching those he greets.

Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
Healing just like you.

4. Jesus Christ is dancing,
Dancing in the streets,
Where each sign of hatred
He, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard
Let me dance with you.

5. Jesus Christ is calling,
Calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus,
Let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

Blessing

May God our maker bless us and wrap us around in love and tenderness, may Jesus our brother bless us and ask the questions that lead us to do justice, may the Holy Spirit bless us and fill our lives with her courage and wisdom. May we live bravely in the love that we know and must show all our nights and days!

Amen.

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