

Psalm and Readings Friday 8th July 2022

Psalm 55

HEAR my prayer, O God: and hide not thyself from my petition.

Take heed unto me, and hear me: how I mourn in my prayer, and am vexed.

The enemy crieth so, and the ungodly cometh on so fast: for they are minded to do me some mischief; so maliciously are they set against me.

My heart is disquieted within me: and the fear of death is fallen upon me.

Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me: and an horrible dread hath overwhelmed me.

And I said, O that I had wings like a dove: for then would I flee away, and be at rest.

Lo, then would I get me away far off: and remain in the wilderness.

I would make haste to escape: because of the stormy wind and tempest.

Destroy their tongues, O Lord, and divide them: for I have spied unrighteousness and strife in the city.

Day and night they go about within the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it.

Wickedness is therein: deceit and guile go not out of their streets.

For it is not an open enemy, that hath done me this dishonour: for then I could have borne it.

Neither was it mine adversary, that did magnify himself against me: for then peradventure I would have hid myself from him.

But it was even thou, my companion: my guide, and mine own familiar friend.

We took sweet counsel together: and walked in the house of God as friends.

Let death come hastily upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

As for me, I will call upon God: and the Lord shall save me.

In the evening, and morning, and at noon-day will I pray, and that instantly: and he shall hear my voice.

It is he that hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me.

Yea, even God, that endureth for ever, shall hear me, and bring them down: for they will not turn, nor fear God.

He laid his hands upon such as be at peace with him: and he brake his covenant.

The words of his mouth were softer than butter, having war in his heart: his words were smoother than oil, and yet be they very swords.

O cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall nourish thee: and shall not suffer the righteous to fall for ever.

And as for them: thou, O God, shalt bring them into the pit of destruction.

The blood-thirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days: nevertheless, my trust shall be in thee, O Lord.

Judges 11:29-end

Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh. He passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites. And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, 'If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whoever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord's, to be offered up by me as a burnt-offering.' So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them; and the Lord gave them into his hand. He inflicted a massive defeat on them from Aroer to the neighbourhood of Minnith, twenty towns, and as far as Abel-keramim. So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah; and there was his daughter coming out to meet him with timbrels and with dancing. She was his only

child; he had no son or daughter except her. When he saw her, he tore his clothes, and said, 'Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low; you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.' She said to him, 'My father, if you have opened your mouth to the Lord, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the Lord has given you vengeance against your enemies, the Ammonites.' And she said to her father, 'Let this thing be done for me: Grant me two months, so that I may go and wander on the mountains, and bewail my virginity, my companions and I.' 'Go,' he said and sent her away for two months. So she departed, she and her companions, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains. At the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to the vow he had made. She had never slept with a man. So there arose an Israelite custom that for four days every year the daughters of Israel would go out to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"

Luke 17:1-10

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble. Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent", you must forgive.'

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.'

'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you