



26 June – 2 July • Faith 24/7

Some things can't wait

 **Luke 9.51-62**

Jesus sets out on a journey into hostile territory. He warns the disciples that there will be hardships ahead but that their task is imperative, they must spread the message of the kingdom of God.

Now read **Luke 9.51-62** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Jesus has reached a watershed moment in his ministry. He has consolidated his bond with his disciples and now, together, they look outwards to those he wishes to gather into his love. The disciples need to set in order their priorities so that they can follow him unhindered.



How can you prioritise your faith this week?

Pray



Use this prayer every day this week:

O God, help us to order our priorities so that we put our world and your kingdom first. Strengthen us to be good disciples and to follow you closely so that we learn to do your will. **Amen.**

Prioritise

Think about some of the issues which affect our world today, for example,

- Climate change
- Poverty
- The refugee crisis
- Pollution
- Recovering from pandemic
- Racism and intolerance
- Inequality

Decide which of those – or something else – is a priority for you. Is there some action you could take – e.g. join a demonstration, write a letter, make a donation, join a focus group, display a badge or poster?



LISTEN

Listen to or read the words of the hymn 'Lord of all Hopefulness'. This hymn speaks of God being there with us throughout the day, morning, noon and night, even when we are preoccupied with other things. A soldier going into battle once said, 'I may forget you, O God, but do not forget me'. The hymn invites God to be with us but also recognises that he is there anyway. In what way do you find this thought comforting or perhaps challenging?



You will need: small pieces of paper, string, clothes pegs or paper clips, pens.

If you have young children in the house, ask them to write down the things they must do in the morning before they can go out to school. For example, but not limited to: get out of bed, brush hair, feed their pet(s), clean teeth, eat breakfast. Stretch out a line with the string and get them to pin on their activities with the most important at one end, and the least important at the other. Discuss together the priorities and choices we all need to make.

REFLECT

Read the passage from Luke. Think about all the things you need to do today. If you have time, make a list and rank them in order of importance. Are we tempted to prioritise the things we enjoy most and put off the things we find more tedious or difficult? How easily are we distracted from doing the things we need to do? Where does prayer and spending time reading the Bible feature on the list?

SOLVE

You will need: a small jar, a ping-pong ball and some marbles. Put the marbles into the jar, followed by the ping-pong ball. What do you notice? It's probable that you won't be able to fit the lid on. Now try putting in the ping-pong ball first followed by the marbles. This is more likely to be successful. What might this example teach you about ordering your priorities? Work out the best way to get the ping-pong ball and as many marbles as possible into the jar. Then present this task to someone else; ask them to put everything into the jar but don't give them any clues (yet)!



Daily Readings for week commencing 27 th June 2022		
Monday	Judges 2	Luke 13: 1-9
Tuesday	Judges 4: 1-23	Luke 13: 10-21
Wednesday	Isaiah 49: 1-6	Acts 11: 1-18 <i>Peter and Paul, Apostles</i>
Thursday	Judges 6: 1-24	Luke 14: 1-11
Friday	Judges 6: 25-end	Luke 14: 12-24
Saturday	Judges 7	Luke 14: 25-end

Pray for those in need... Please pray for the people of Ukraine...for those in need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Shane, Bryn, Katie-Lou, Margaret and Alison... **Please pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one...** remembering the soul of Lynne



Winners for June:

1st prize: Catherine Hancock No.36

2nd prize: Gerry Taylor No. 8

Congratulations!

Just a thought...

At first read, Jesus' words in Luke seem insensitive. Requests from would-be followers to first bury their dad and say goodbye to their family seem completely reasonable. So, Jesus' response that the dead should bury their own dead and that saying goodbye to your family makes you not fit for purpose sounds a little harsh.

But here's the thing... the task that Jesus was calling these disciples to was important and urgent. The state of the world depended on it. There were others that could take care of funeral arrangements and perhaps Jesus knew that the man wanting to say goodbye was just stalling for time. Perhaps Jesus knew that, if he returned to his family, he'd never leave. Fast forward 2,000 years and the world, once again, seems dependent on the actions that we will or won't take – actions that are important and urgent. Extreme weather, undeniably linked to climate change, is bringing increased flooding, droughts, and natural disasters around the globe. The number of people displaced by war, violence and human rights violations stands at the highest number since records began and, both in the UK and around the world, food insecurity is surging. But we can make a difference in all these situations – if we take important and urgent action now. Jesus wasn't saying that family and friends aren't important. But might we be succumbing to the temptation to switch off and focus on our small, contained, 'safe' world with its day-to-day, surface activities, rather than acting on what's really important?

"On Saturday the 16th of July at 10.30am on Newtown Green field (by Ronkswood Community Centre) Newtown Green Community Groupe are holding a 'Blindfold Mile' in support of New College Worcester. People (all ages) are invited to take on the unusual and memorable challenge of walking a sponsored mile blindfolded whilst raising funds for NCW.

The aim is to spread awareness of vision impairment and allow people to experience some of the challenges that blind and partially sighted people overcome each day. Sponsor forms available soon.

St Martin's are having a Strawberry Tea on Wednesday 6th July at 2.30 p.m. in the Lower Vestry. Everyone is welcome. It would be helpful if you could let Barbara Richards know if you are planning to go to help with catering numbers. Email: b.richards176@btinternet.com

