

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 17 Opportunities Lost and Perhaps not Regained.

The parable of the Wicked Vinedressers in Matthew 21:33-43 portrays one of Jesus' sharpest attacks on the leaders of Israel. Matthew copies Mark in saying that the Pharisees understood that it was about them. It is also autobiographical in that the son who is thrown out and killed is also a perception of Jesus about himself.

Opportunities come every day. Some are enticing, some may motivate us, and other are clearly not on our radar. Psalm 80 has a refrain "restore us, O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine and we will be saved."

Does the opportunity that comes offer restoration? Will it restore your hopes and dreams in a fresh way? Does it have light in it that brings a glow to your face?

What does the Psalmist mean by "saved?" Saved from or saved for something?

The opportunity comes with his heart in the case the Landowner/Father in the Gospel parable. The son who comes also brings his heart. Both of their hearts are broken.

Be careful of offering your heart. Be realistic about the consequences.

A broken dream cannot cope with another broken dream. But we still dream.

Keep your heart open to life. Be not afraid, but listen also to the discerning voice of your heart. When God's face shines on us we are enlightened. Jesus was offering the Father's heart to his hearers. We can do no other if we follow his example.

Being saved is not a selfish matter. It is being saved for God and for life and the opportunities to make the faces of others glow with happiness and renewed hope.

Open your eyes to opportunities every day. Look at them with the discerning eye of your heart. Rise above them if reasoned caution sounds its warning of care.

When you put your hand out it should be an act of trust and trustworthiness.

Love life and be not afraid of evil. It was conquered once-for-all at a place called Calvary. Salvation beckons, but for real love there is always a heart-cost.

May your opportunities abound and may your use of them bless your life and that of others.

True love never lets us go, because it has already set us free.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, October 8.

- *Bible study, 10:00am*
- *Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office*

Thursday, October 9.

- *Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14