

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 20 Outcomes: To Dream, To Be Real, and To Examine

Jesus says that all the law and the prophets of Israel hang on the two great commandments. That is, to love God with all our being and to love our neighbours as we need to love and respect ourselves.

That is, even the Torah, “the Divine Instruction” of Israel and all the statements and lives of their prophets are tested in the light of the love of God, others and ourselves.

We may balk at the last one about of the loving ourselves. It does not mean self-indulgence or that desperate form of love that we call Narcissism after Narcissus who fell in love with himself when he saw his face in a pool. But a healthy self-love and self-respect is necessary to be fully alive.

To Dream

Loving God with all our heart mind and soul may seem to be dreaming when it comes to us. When Jesus asks us to love one another and to deeply love and respect another, we give a wry smile when we consider the human issues that are part of everyday. But Dreaming and Imagination are clearly linked. Where we dream we release creative forces, shadows and light, from our subconscious. This is the fabric of imagination. Creative dreaming and Inspired Imagination open windows to seeing the wonders of creation and the wonder of God.

To Be Real: Realistic

All dreams eventually need to be tempered with realism. Realism does not exclude dreaming and imagination but it looks at what it really means. Some people say, “I am realistic”. That at once cries out for explanation. We understand that when we discover reality we are healed of delusion. But reality is a hard road, and many draw back from it.

Examination is necessary to assess outcomes

I take my students through their examination papers before the exam. Exams should not be memory tests, but tests of the outcomes of our learning. That is, how to weigh up and use what we have learned. Memory tests favour those with good memories and discredit those with memories like a sieve.

Outcome tests check what has been learned and the student's capacity to make use of the learning.

We should use the **best outcomes method** when we are reading Scripture.

- i. What are the dreams that God has for us in the text? How does Jesus interpret the dreams of God?
- ii. What are the practical realities and deeper realities in the text?
- iii. Does the text bear examination in the twenty-first century? What did the writers intend and what should we make of it now.

Consider how Jesus combined Deuteronomy 6:4-5 from the Ten Commandments and Leviticus 19:18 from the Torah but not from the Ten Commandments, as a summary of all the law and the prophets. How creative and how stunning in application in every age and moment! Let us seek to emulate his creativity!

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, October 29.

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

Thursday, October 30.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

Saturday, November 1.

- All Saints' Day service, 10:00am

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13,17-20; Matthew 23:1-12

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 9. Remembrance Sunday, 9:30am

November 16. Stewardship Sunday (both services)

November 23.

- NCCP Sunday, 9:30am
 - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service & Dinner, 7:30pm
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