



Sunday 20th June 2021

Bible Month Week 3

Mark 8:22 – 10:52 “On The Way”.

Dear friends,

If you have the Internet, you will find a video to accompany this sheet on YouTube from Sunday morning – search for Isle of Man Methodist Church and you will find it on our YouTube channel.

Don't forget also that Judith Ley is broadcasting “At Your Service” on Manx Radio FM at 0930 every Sunday which includes prayers, readings, hymns, and teaching.

Our prayers are with you all,
Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Opening Prayer

God of love, God for all,
your purposes are more beautiful than we
can possibly imagine.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Help us let go of all that holds us back.
Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of
humility and faith, of change and growth.
Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus
and show us the way.

Amen

Hymn: StF 238 Lead us heavenly...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

- 1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea ;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee,
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.
- 2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us ;
all our weakness thou dost know,
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe ;
tempted, taunted, yet undaunted,
through the desert thou didst go.
- 3 Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy ;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791–1867)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 238

Let us pray together

Lord God, we thank you that as we journey you are with us.

Forgive us when we forget this truth and believe that we journey without help or guidance. Cleanse and renew us by your Holy Spirit and help us once again to place our journey in your hands.

Thank you that you forgive us and gives us a fresh start again and again. Open our eyes to the truth of your love and help us to share that love by the power of your spirit in all that we do and all that we are.

Amen

Today's Reading:

Mark 8:22-29.

Find a Bible and read the above passages. If you do not have a Bible at home, ask your local minister who will gladly source one for you.

A time of reflection

‘Open our eyes Lord’

Today's reading tells the story of a two-stage restoration of sight (8:22-26). Its narrative location and its unique features compel us to ask, ‘Why has Mark included it here?’ The contrast of the blindness of the disciples (8:18) with the restoration of sight to this nameless person is clear. Then Mark puts Jesus and his disciples in Caesarea Philippi (8:27), the northernmost extent of Jesus' mission. From there, Jesus begins his journey to Jerusalem via Jericho, where he restores sight to Bartimaeus. Two healing stories bracket the geographical journey during which Jesus is teaching his disciples. But why two stages? Explanations abound, but the most convincing relate to the journey itself. This healing foreshadows the theological journey that the disciples are taking during which their eyes should gradually be opened. Crucially, the first stage of this restoration of sight comes with the watershed confession of Peter. Jesus presses his followers to tell them who he is - and Peter responds, ‘You are the Messiah’ (8:29). The penny has finally dropped, and they now know who he is! So, all is well, then? Well, not quite. They now know who Jesus is, but they don't really know what it means for him or, for that matter, for themselves.

(Kent Brower “30 Days With The Gospel of Mark”)

Hymn: StF 443 Come let us sing...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

- 1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true ;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you :
wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.
- 2 Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came ;
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame ;
seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.
- 3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet ;
why do they roam ?
Love only waits to forgive and forget ;
home, weary wanderer, home !
Wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.
- 4 Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love,
come and abide,
lifting my life, till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride ;
seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

Robert Walmsley (1831–1905)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 443

Prayers of Intercession

In the silence let us pray for those who
we carry in our hearts at this time.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God.

We pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital. Help
them to know that you are with them and pour in your
healing power to the place where they need it most.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those professionals who have committed their
lives to the care of the sick and for families and loved ones
who can only watch and wait.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for wisdom as we face the future, whatever it
may hold...

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who work with the visually impaired
giving thanks for their care and commitment. We pray for
all those involved in medical research as they use the gifts
you have given them to bring healing to others.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the church, open our eyes to see you as we
seek to serve the present age and fulfil our calling.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,*

For ever and ever. Amen.

A prayer of blessing

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of
God and of his son our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of
God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Be with us all, this day and forever more. **Amen.**

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