

## **Trinity 1, 25 May 2008**

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18. Commandments  
Psalm 119: Teach me O Lord  
1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-18. Nature of wisdom  
Matthew 5; 38-48. Turn the other cheek

### **Thank you for welcome**

Lovely service  
Those who kept things going, especially Sally, phone calls  
Baptism of fire baptisms, weddings, baptisms at Barlow

### **In all this activity, need something to live by.**

#### **What do the readings say?**

OT commandments: you shall not revile the deaf, or put a stumbling block before the blind

Wisdom psalm

need psalms

What is wisdom: sophia

Love of love

Need to fight for it

Proverbs market stalls

Epistle tells us that this wisdom, manifest at Jesus Christ, unexpected, unpredictable, not world's wisdom

#### **Gospel interesting**

Pacifist – certainly not

- Turn the other cheek a provocative act
  - At the time of Jesus, striking someone deemed to be of a lower class with the back of the hand was used to assert authority and dominance. If the persecuted person "turned the other cheek," the discipliner was faced with a dilemma. The left hand was used for unclean purposes, so you couldn't do it.
  - Turn other cheek: go into the street and say do it again where all can see what you're like
- Give your cloak as well, could be provocative
  - By handing over one's cloak in addition to one's tunic, the debtor has essentially given the shirt off their back, a situation directly forbidden by Jewish Law. By giving the cloak you're reduced to nakedness, something that brings shame on the viewer, not the naked (Genesis 9: 20-27)

**However, we look at this, I think it's a call to get involved.** not just a private matter

And that's what we must do. we have to judge best how to do this: wisdom needed

#### **Involvement plan the two great commandments**

Love God and neighbour as self

- Love God:
  - show our love in church services. beauty, good words, good sights, good sounds. More anon.
  - learn about God, explore the divine, listen to the divine spirit, hear divine wisdom. More anon.
- Love neighbour as self
  - Not better than. Explore ourselves and be honest with ourselves. Humility.
  - Serve the people of this parish and this church
  - Man in park: acid, needles, round from rectory.
  - Driving along Linacre road: each side, Different drugs. This parish.
  - How do we serve them, what can we do for them?
  - we should be challenging, not silent

So there's a blue print for action. REFER TO PROFILE

To seek and fight for delight for all, wisdom for all, sophia, love of love.

In all of this, my job is to be your pastor, teacher, provoker, comforter, challenger and nurturer. All that will be my privilege, and I do it willingly and with enthusiasm. We all have a part to play in enabling the kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, or that the church militant here in earth may become the church triumphant.