

## **Lay Preachers' Bulletin – October 2021**

*October's lectionary notes have been provided by The Ven. Noel Wygiera, Archdeacon of Rocky Mountain and incumbent of St. Luke, Red Deer.*

### **October 3, 2021** – Pentecost 19

Mark 10:2-16

In this passage, Jesus teaches about both divorce and childlike faith. Compare and contrast the teachings. How does comparing hardness of heart and childlike faith help us to discern God's concern for us?

Jesus shifts the Pharisees' understanding of divorce away from being a point of law to being a point of the heart. What does Jesus mean by "hardness of heart" and what does it lead to?

Jesus demonstrates that children are worthy of God's attention. What is it about a child's nature that would allow it to be the key to entering the Kingdom of God?

### **October 10, 2021** – Harvest Thanksgiving

Matthew 6:25-33

This lesson speaks of God's ever-present care and concern for his creation and that we can have faith in this. The pandemic may have challenged people in this aspect of faith. In what ways have we been called to stay faithful even in the midst of the challenges that we have faced?

This lesson is one of the options offered for our celebration of Harvest Thanksgiving. Why would this lesson be used for a festival like Harvest Thanksgiving? Is there a connection between faithfulness and thankfulness?

As we look back over the past year, what have we to be thankful for? How can this help us to look ahead in faith?

**October 17, 2021** – Pentecost 21

Mark 10:35-45

In this passage we learn something of the cost of leadership. James and John seek to be asked to take prominent positions, but Jesus asks them if they really know what they are asking. If people enter leadership for prestige, how might the cost of leadership affect them? How might this type of leadership affect the organization?

How do the other disciples respond to the request of the brothers? What does this demonstrate about their understanding of leadership?

What is the real nature of the leadership that Jesus calls his disciples to?

**October 24, 2021** – Pentecost 22

Mark 10:46-52

Here is an opportunity to have a little fun with the Biblical Greek from which this passage is translated... no, really! I'm not kidding. You can have fun with Biblical Greek!

In the beginning of the story, Bartimaeus is said to be sitting by the road. At the end of the story, he is following Jesus on the way. In the Greek, road and way are the same word (hodos). Later, in the Book of Acts, the Way is a term used to identify the followers of Jesus.

How might this little word study describe the process of becoming a follower of Jesus?

In the context of this story, what does it mean to be “out of the way?” On the way? In the Way?

How might our churches help more people “get in the way?”

**October 31, 2021** – Pentecost 23

Mark 12:28-34

This passage focuses on what the Prayer Book calls, “The Summary of the law.” It distills the whole of the Law down to the principle of “love God and love your neighbour.”

What does it mean to love God and love your neighbour?

Why would Jesus agree with the Scribe that this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices?

Is there a sacrifice when we choose to love God and love our neighbour? If so, what is the nature of this sacrifice?