**Ministerial Meandering**

*Procrastinate to eternity*

So there’s this friend of mine who told me only the other day that he has a lady friend he’s known nearly 20 years, and he’s really rather sweet on her - but she doesn’t want to know. Both of them are single, older, and lonely - so why?

It’s an old story that you’ve heard a thousand times, but one that leads to so much unnecessary heartache. She had two previous partnerships (maybe marriages, I don’t know) and both of the men were - apparently - ‘arseholes’. So she doesn’t trust men at all now - certainly not to get close to her. So she maintains her lonely existence, holding almost all people at arms’ length, whilst practising as a *therapist* - for heaven’s sake!

Now I am aware of the mythical Chiron, the wounded healer, whose experience of his own personal pain made him a much better healer, but this lady is a case of not facing her demons at all, whilst trying to assume expertise to help others face theirs. How ridiculous is that?

And so she puts off what might be a life-affirming relationship for two needy people. She procrastinates in ignorance.

My mother-in-law (no, this is *not* going to be one of *those* jokes) was widowed early, when her husband died following surgical complications of colonic cancer surgery while still relatively young. She was very lonely, being a naturally gregarious person with a lot of love to give. Fortunately, due to a cunning plot of her GP (for whom she worked as a receptionist, and who recognized her need), she met another man who ‘just happened’ to be invited to the same dinner party, and was also widowed and lonely.

They got on well, married, and had 20 plus years of happy life together. This, of course, is the alternative story.

If we wait for the ‘right’ person just to waltz into our lives, we may be waiting an awfully long time - possibly because the band is playing the quickstep and not the waltz.

There is a huge danger in putting off what you really want - because it’s not *quite* the perfect answer to your prayers. There’s an old saying that goes, ‘Don’t put off till tomorrow what you can do today’, which is attributed to Benjamin Franklin, and it has been messed about with by such luminaries as Mark Twain, who turned it into, ‘Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow’.

Perhaps the best bastardisation of the original is, ‘never put off till tomorrow what you can do today - because if you enjoy it today, you can do it again tomorrow!’

By this meandering I want us to consider those who put off the possibility of salvation offered in the Christian life - because they are not sure if they really want it, or don’t think it will work for *them*. This is truly messing with your soul, and potentially procrastinating to eternity. Perhaps not such a good idea.

I know a lot of alcoholics who had initially held back from joining AA because they said to themselves, ‘That won’t work for me’ - without even trying it! This is just the same as my grandchildren saying ‘I won’t like steak and lobster’ - or ice cream - or strawberries - or other yummy food, when they’ve never even tried it! How crazy is that? They have now discovered that they *love* all the aforementioned.

So are you putting off the potential for a wonderful relationship with Jesus because you think ‘it won’t work for me’ - when you’ve never really tried it?

Perhaps it’s time you moved from a position of ignorance to one of experience. Otherwise you will be a perfect example of ‘la vie manqué.’

Philip+