

St James C of E

PARISH OF ROUNDS GREEN

Trinity 13

10am Sunday

6 September 2020



Worship Songs

click on the picture, the link or the title – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads)



[Love Divine](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h1GUkpkP2A)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h1GUkpkP2A>

Bible reading

Matt 18: 15-20 - New International Version (NIV)

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Worship Songs

click on the picture, the link or the title – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads))



[Come to the Table](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXXxLwxfo0U)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXXxLwxfo0U>

Thought for Today

Click here to see a video recording of Jill's thoughts

<https://stjamesroundsgreen.com/openingtimes/our-church-services/>

Thought for Today

1

TRINITY 13 SUNDAY 6 September 2020

By Jill Macdonald

Matt 18:15 - 20

I'm sure you've all heard the saying, 'good things come in small packages.'

Yes?

If I said that The Bible isn't a particularly small package, would you agree?

In fact, any guesses as to how many chapters it contains? (1,189)

What about verses? (31,273)

However, I don't think that it's too much of a stretch to suggest that each verse could be considered a small package.....many of them real gems!

Today's reading only has 5 verses: so, we could perhaps be forgiven for thinking that 5 out of 31,273 isn't going to have very much to say to us!

Definitely wrong, because all 5 verses have something specific to say to us to help us live as God intends us to.

So, first up, all this stuff about going to someone and showing them where they are at fault.

Thought for Today

2

Matt 18:15 - 20

Ummm – that could potentially be confrontational.

What exactly is Jesus saying to us here?

Well, these first 3 verses are Jesus' guidelines for dealing with those who sin against us: and there are some important factors to remember:

- These verses relate to Christians, not unbelievers
- They refer to sins committed against us personally, not against others
- They are a mechanism for conflict resolution in the context of the church and not the wider community

Although, having said that, we should apply all of Jesus' teaching to our lives outside church as well.

So, how could someone sin against us?

Well, of course, there are really big issues sometimes, but often it could be that they might say something hurtful and unkind directly to us; or we may hear from someone else that they have maligned us in some way; or they may have spoken unnecessarily sharply and harshly to us; or they might have done something which they really should have discussed with us before the deed.

Eg. Liz / staff meeting / Zena / SEN

Within the church setting it could be that someone sets up some sort of children's group without consulting with the relevant people first.

I suspect that by having the courage to do step one, go privately to the person who has wronged you and discuss things together, Jesus was thinking that the other two steps would rarely need to be followed.

Matt 18:15 - 20

And it will take courage to take that first step; as well as wisdom and tact in how we approach the subject with the person. Getting their backs up and antagonising them from the 'get go' will not lead to reconciliation. These will be sensitive situations and must be handled in Christian love.....especially from us, even though we may feel that we are the injured party.

What is very definite about these 3 verses is that Jesus is not giving us permission or licence for a 'head on' frontal attack on every person who hurts or slights us. Nor is he giving us the 'go ahead' to start a destructive gossip campaign or call for a church trial.

These verses are designed to reconcile those who disagree so that all Christians can live in harmony: because of course, we will have differences at times. Apart from having different characters and personalities, we are at different stages in the growth of our faith.

At the beginning of our faith we will have a completely worldly mind set.....which is, so often, at odds and opposite to how God thinks.

2 Corinthians 10:5 says, 'We demolish arguments and every pretention that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ'.

In other words, we have to shed loads of the way we used to think as we begin to think the way God does.

Thought for Today

Matt 18:15 - 20

So, for example, I may have reached a stage in my faith where I don't think that a certain way of behaving and thinking is in line with God's word, but someone else may not have reached that point yet and so wouldn't agree with me.....and that could, if we're not careful, lead to splits and dissension.

It can all be very tricky and delicate, especially as, as Christians, we are in the world but not of the world.

Therefore, when someone wrongs us, the worldly way of handling things is the opposite of what Jesus recommends. Instead of turning away in hatred and resentment, seeking revenge, or engaging in gossip, we should go to that person first, as difficult as that may be.

And, not only that, but we should forgive that person as often as he or she needs it. By doing this we will create a much better chance of restoring the relationship.

We need to remember as well that the other person may be totally oblivious to the fact that they have upset us.

Then, briefly, in verse 18 Jesus talks about loosing and binding. This refers to the decisions of the church in conflicts: and, ideally, the church decisions should be God-guided and based on discernment of his word. So, if believers find that they have to bring their problems to the church, the church has a responsibility to use God's guidance in seeking to resolve the conflict.

Handling problems God's way will have an impact now and in eternity.

Thought for Today

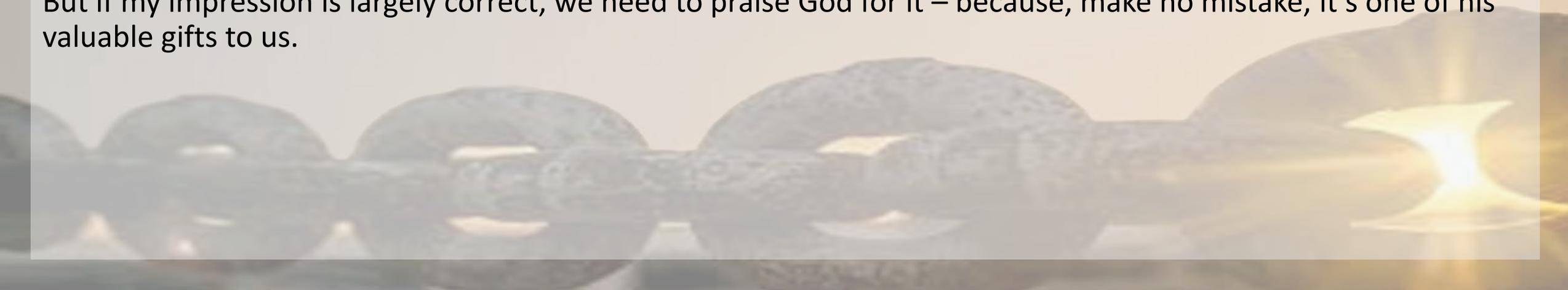
Matt 18:15 - 20

Finally, verses 19 and 20 remind us that in the body of believers (the church) the sincere agreement of two people is more powerful than the superficial agreement of thousands.....because Christ's Holy Spirit is with them. When we are filled with God's Holy Spirit we are more likely to pray according to God's will and not our own.....making it more likely that our requests will be granted.

I actually think that here at St James we are pretty unique in that conflicts don't often arise; I rarely hear of any gossip going on; and, in most things we seem to be pretty much of one mind – the furthering of God's kingdom on Lion Farm.

If I'm completely deluding myself then please come and tell me.....privately first of course.

But if my impression is largely correct, we need to praise God for it – because, make no mistake, it's one of his valuable gifts to us.



Prayers

1

Intercessions for Trinity 13 - Sunday 6 September 2020

Lord Jesus, thank you that you are for us and not against us, and so your desire is that we live in harmony and peace with each other.

We pray today for all churches, of whatever denomination, who are going through a period of conflict and strife; where emotions of anger, hurt, sadness and pain are tearing people apart: and where a parting of the ways seems inevitable.

We ask that you will flood such churches with your boundless love and spirit of forgiveness, so that, whatever the outcome, a good witness to your mighty power of reconciliation will be revealed to the communities in which they are situated.

Thank you for your continuing goodness to St James.

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer

Prayers

2

Lord Jesus, we are saddened by the fact that disputes and disagreements rage on endlessly between our different political parties; and even within the same party.

In these times of Brexit and Coronavirus, when all politicians, whatever their flag, should be working together for the good of everyone in the country, we see continued backbiting and squabbling.

We ask that you would begin to probe deeply into the mind-sets of all leaders, and give them a deeper desire to settle personal differences, so that they can focus together on the best way forward for our country.

We continue to ask that you would raise up Christians, who are full of Godly wisdom, integrity and maturity, into positions of influential power to direct future policies which are in line with your will.

Lord in Your Mercy – Hear our Prayer

Prayers

3

Lord Jesus, some children have already returned to school and some return tomorrow. We bring before you all schools, especially our own St James Primary School, as they seek to give the children in their care the best possible education in the midst of challenging circumstances, where basic organisation has to be different to normal.

We pray that you will keep both children and staff free of the coronavirus and ask that you put a hedge of protection around all school sites.

With all the panic abounding about children being behind, we ask that you will supernaturally work to bring amazing and surprising progress in all children, especially those who are more disadvantaged. You are a God of miracles, we ask for miraculous achievements to be gained by all students, whatever their age.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers through our saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

Worship Songs

click on the picture, the link or the title – You Tube (you may need to skip the ads)



[Build Your Kingdom Here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8awpRHg5waw)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8awpRHg5waw>

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



New Songs - Some we have sung a few times and others are new to us

- Living Hope <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyOJInn5SZI>
- Who You Say I Am <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcC1Bp13n> 4
- While I Wait <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkE-gEzTYJE>
- O Praise the Name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>
- Rescuer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wCfHXgJbdg>
- Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxKLnySMbYM>
- Great Things <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4CY3nf1Mvw>
- Way Maker <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29IxnsqOkmQ>
- Come To the Table <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXXxLwxfo0U>
- Good Good Father <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ak0OoFBw3c>
- What A Beautiful Name https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUBBlddm_rM
- Do It Again https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQIITxU

If you'd like to make a song suggestion message us on the Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesroundsgreen>

Lively Uplifting Songs - to dance around the kitchen to or bop in your chair

- Alive <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEvEVALLjNQ>
- Falling Into You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlsthBWtxAI>
- Dance https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kkb7yf_fYDU
- This is Living <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTojDT3Ky2c>
- Real Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xUI7aVsQ>
- Deep Down <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIX19TfG07U>
- Backseat Driver https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kME_Q5V82Us
- Love Broke Thru <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f42ykMcndeo>
- Move <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MX1G71WK-FA>

If you'd like to make a song suggestion message us on the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesroundsgreen>