



**10 OCTOBER 2021**

Please join us online via our Facebook page to worship with us this weekend.

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 10 October, 2021

Job 23:1-9, 16-17  
Psalm 22:1-15  
Hebrews 4:12-16  
Mark 10:17-31

### Next week 17 October, 2021

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)  
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

## Mission Survey

Thank you to those who have sent in a completed survey. If you were hoping to send in a survey but haven't yet completed it, we can receive it until close of business on Monday if you want to email it to the office or drop it in under the door. We encourage everyone to have their say in the future plans of the congregation.

## Church Council Meeting

Councillors are reminded of the meeting on Thursday night, 7.30pm in the chapel.

## *If only I had known*

### Mark 10:17-31, Luke 16: 19-31

Most people know the story of the rich man and Lazarus because it is here, and only here, that the Bible refers to the fires of Hell.

What Jesus was really indicating about life after death was that there are two states. One is the New Jerusalem and the other state is Gehenna, meaning the absolute opposite of paradise. Blessed is the person who has assurance that when their earthly journey is over they will be in the presence of our Lord and all his saints in glory. The real Hell will be if a person is separated from their loved ones. We know that faith, and not good works alone, will bring us to Heaven. Therefore the story of the rich man and Lazarus is one of separation. It emphasises the divide between those whose after death existence is Heaven, and those whose will be Hell.

The reading from Mark reinforces this message. It indicates that not by simply keeping the rules, nor by having money, power and influence, will one be accepted into Heaven. In fact Jesus says clearly that riches actually get in the way of people's acceptance by God.

It is in fact by sharing all we have, and by serving others, by receiving and giving to others God's love, that God recognises us as followers. This is an outworking of our faith. We cannot buy the forgiveness of God with one good deed or with a thousand good deeds. Only by faith in Christ can that gap be bridged.

What then is the reason God may have given us some of our riches? The answer is, so we can help others. That is, the great value in being rich is that we have a better opportunity to serve others. The rich man completely misunderstood the privilege of his riches. He had been completely uncaring of Lazarus.

The things that are important to God are of little or no value to us on earth. Often it is the poor who suffer the most. In our current Corona outbreaks in NSW and Victoria, it is overwhelmingly the poorer parts of our country that are suffering most. Suffering because they have lost income. Suffering because they cannot afford to stay home, keeping them safe from infection. Time and time again, the poor miss out.

The message from today's readings is that it is not the poor, but rather the rich, who are in the gravest eternal danger. Jesus uses these radical stories to shock his listeners into perspective before it is too late for them. This is our warning too. Get life into perspective, recognise Jesus as our Lord and live radical, generous lives, filled with God's riches, not mankind's. - Adrian