

Reflections for July 26th - 7th Sunday after Trinity

God works for good

Many of us who read and hear the Bible regularly, find that there are some passages and verses that keep coming back to our attention, that stay with us on our journey of faith, and help us through difficult and testing times.

There is a verse in the New Testament reading for this Sunday that has been very important for me over many years:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

(Romans chapter 8, verse 28)

This verse does *not* say that all things are good, but it does promise that in all things, from whatever place or situation we may find ourselves in, God is always ready to start with us from where we are, and work in us and with us to bring good out of even the most unlikely circumstances.

The gospel reading for this week includes more parables –with as many as four of them in just six verses (Matthew chapter 13, verses 31-33 and 44-45), showing how Jesus could tell powerful stories in just a few words. Two of these parables speak about the power of faith, in the image of a tiny seed that grows into a tree, and a small amount of yeast that can make the bread dough rise. And the other two speak about the cost of faith, in the story of a man who finds treasure in a field, and sells all that he has in order to buy the field, and the merchant who finds a very valuable pearl, and sells all his possessions so that he can buy it.

These parables remind us that there may be things that we have to give up and leave behind, so that we can come to the place where we will be ready to receive God's blessings. But it is worth whatever it may cost, so that we can be in the place where we are promised that God is always ready to start with us, to work in and with us for the good of all God's people.

Revd John Waller

Loving God,
who promises to work for good
with those who love you:
as we entrust our lives into your hands,
guide and bless us
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible readings: 1 Kings 3. 5-12; Romans 8. 26-39; Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52