



Friday Fellowship News No 40, 5 February 2021

GOD – THE MASTER WEAVER

OVER the past months, I've been trying to work out what metaphor best sums up what we're going through. Or, what metaphor most clearly describes what God may well be doing. I've come to the conclusion that God is a **'Master Weaver'**.

If ever you've been to one of those Museum Open Days where volunteers are dressed up in costumes of a bygone age, sometimes sat at a work-bench using old equipment/tools that they would have used for every day life, then, you may have seen someone pretending to be a Master Weaver.

The little piece that they are doing at the time seems nothing, but it is all part of a bigger plan which, after perhaps days, weeks or even months of patience, comes to fruition.

I've noticed God working like this over recent months in this parish in ways in which He has dealt with people individually, and families corporately. The way in which God the weaver has started to bring people together amongst those who haven't been talking for years. In the way in which he has enabled people to share love, support and encouragement amongst others instead of sitting there waiting for it to come to them.

The Lord as Master Weaver, or Master Builder. He redeemed the story of Joseph. Can't He redeem your story as well? You'll get through this.

Here in the pits, surrounded by steep sides, we wonder, for example, whether this grey sky will ever brighten? We may feel trapped, and wonder whether we shall ever get out of this pit – but Joseph did from His in the Bible and we shall from ours.

Out of the lions den for Daniel, prison for Peter, the whale's belly for Jonah, Goliath's shadow for David, the storm for the disciples, disease for the lepers, out of doubt Thomas, a grave for Lazarus, and the shackles or Peter.

God gets us, His people, through stuff. Through the Red Sea onto dry ground (Exodus 14:22), through the Wilderness (Deut 29:5), through the valley of the

shadow of death (Ps 32), and through the deep sea (Ps 77:19).

Through is a favourite word of God's. And I'm confident of this: He will see you and me through this Covid season, and out into a whole new phase of Christian living and to a church renewed, refocussed and refreshed to make Christ known.

SUNDAY READINGS & SERMON

The Bible readings for Sunday are Psalm 104:26-end, 2 Timothy 2: 1-10 and John 1: 1-14.

A Sermon by Gavin Calver, CEO of the Evangelical Alliance, based on the 2 Timothy reading can be accessed via the link below, and will be uploaded to our Facebook Page on Sunday.

His theme is being a Faithful Follower of Christ through this Pandemic. Be encouraged by his message!

<https://cdn.eauk.org/videos/subtitled/Gavin-Calver-January-Sermon-Low-Quality-subtitles.mp4?mtime=20210128151753&focal=none>

PRAYER TOPICS

Saturday – scientists working on vaccines

Sunday – persecuted Christians around the world

Monday – for justice and civil peace in Myanmar

Tuesday – for the lonely and isolated

Wednesday – those awaiting tests and operations

Thursday – children and young people and their mental health

Friday – thank God for the good things of this week!

MORNING PRAYER READINGS

THE MP daily Bible readings (including for Lent) were been sent out last week. Every day in Lent, Monday to Saturday,

I shall also provide a short Reflection on the main reading of the day. Keep an eye out in your Inbox for the email,

PODCASTS

I know that many people have said during lockdown they find reading hard due to low concentration levels. Therefore, you may find these four Podcasts of great help.



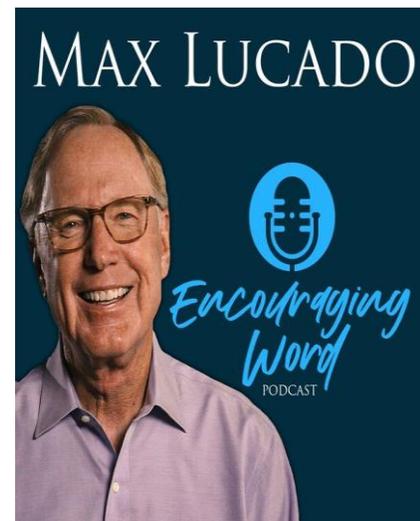
Premier Radio has a great Podcasts with short interviews with Christians in a wide range of ministries, and of views. **If you like to keep up to date with Christian news, views and a wide view of take on life today, Premier's podcast is a good 'go-to'.**



Tim Keller is an internationally respected author, theologian and preacher, based in a large church in New York. He has over 100 sermons available via this Podcasts, each containing a huge amount of spiritual food. **If you want a deep sermon, then there are few better than Tim Keller.**



Christine Cain is an Australian speaker who has a huge ministry amongst women. Full of energy, vitality and an incredible personal testimony. **If you are looking for an inspiring, enthusiastic, empowering preacher – Christine's is the Podcast for you.**



Max Lucado is regarded as 'America's Pastor'. His gentle, warm, pastoral heart, and the incredible way in which he tells stories and illustrations have made him a hugely admired preacher and teacher. **If you are looking for an uplift – Max is your man.**

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