Midweek Matters

Issue 11

Take your everyday, ordinary life- your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering." Romans 12:1 MSG

There are days when words flow quickly, and there are days when words become muddled by the flow of conflicted emotions and competing agendas. This is one of those days! When I try to think about the events of the last two weeks (#blacklivesmatter), the last two months (#saveournhs), the last two years (#Brexit)… words and thoughts become confused and confusing.

Every thought seems to have a "yes but.." attached to it; or "what about…"

I am tempted to leave it at that!

But let me leave you with the thoughts of better wordsmiths than I.

Alistair Cooke's Letter from America, April 7 1968—following the death of Martin Luther King

"I think we all felt guilty about his patience and enormous courage, as he walked into the valley of death so many times. He was in this sense the white man's stand-in, and braver than any of us. Because he acted out what we only thought and hoped, we feel very guilty about his murder. Guilt, as we all know, breeds anxiety, and there's no doubt that everywhere people look with bated breath toward the immediate retaliations of this early warm spring and to the possible inferno of the hot summer."

Jesus, taking up the words of the prophet Isaiah, to describe his mission and the kingdom of God

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

The apostle Paul as he faces the complexity of following Jesus in an unfavourable culture (Romans 12, The Message)

"Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

Then what?

Option 1: Join with Pete, and the other disciples, as we continue to explore Jesus' response to the plea, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Option 2: Do the best I can in praying for the world—even my most inarticulate groanings become heartfelt intercessions in God's hearing (Romans 8:26-27)

Option 3: Listen as I pray. Learn as I listen.

Not optional! Be ready for change to begin in me, and with me.

"Bible verse"

…your kingdom come,
your will be done,…

Matthew 6:10

Listen with Others

BAPTISTS TOGETHER

There have been many competing voices as a result of the recent death of George Floyd—I offer these from within the Baptist Union. You may not agree with everything, but as you listen I pray that you will find ways to articulate your own prayers for justice in the world.

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/579572/George_Floyd_responding.aspx
https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/579793/Lamentation_words_for.aspx

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