Sunday 20 September 2026

For further Contemplation

Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara shares with us on the theme: ***'God's Love for All'***. Thresi's reflection comes primarily from Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16. Thresi says the key message is – *"God's generous love is not limited by our human measures of worth or abundance. We are called to receive that generosity with gratitude and to share it with one another and with all creation."*

Read the passage from Jonah3:10-4:11, see the anger of Jonah at God. Note particularly 4:2b – by what standards does Jonah judge God's actions? Can you see some parallels with Jesus' parable of the Vineyard workers?

The passage in Matthew is sandwiched between Jesus telling the disciples the Kingdom of God belongs to children or those with childlike faith and innocence. This was completely counter cultural to the way children were treated at that time, as worthless (19:13-15). Then he's teaching about wealth and the need to give it away and finally saying to the disciples "many who are first will be last and many who are last will be first" (19:30). Read Luke 23:40-43, what does this say about the last being first, about God's generous love, God's grace and mercy?

Then after the passage of the vineyard workers, Jesus tells them plainly he will be condemned and crucified (20:17-19). Now the mother of James and John tries to seek special places of honour for her sons beside Jesus. What is the thinking of the disciples and the mother in these encounters and how does Jesus' answer this? Of course, the other disciples like the vineyard workers got upset. But Jesus reminds them all that *"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give up his life for many"* (20:20-28). How does Thresi's message and these teachings of Jesus speak to you personally about the way God sees you, values you and what is important to God?

Finally in this past week we have Senator Pauline Hanson ascribing worthlessness and ignorantly judging First Nations Australians by a human western standards of achievement, of worth. God's standards are clear; compassion, grace, love, and generosity.

Blessings,
Stuart