



ZOOM MEETING HELD ON 30th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7:30PM

CHAPTER 4 - "Living Jesus' Model" - Anne Colquhoun

CHAPTER 5 - "The Father's Heart" - Alice De Lima

Contributions

Group 1

These are the best two chapters so far and the report was extremely well done on this difficult chapter. Not all of us need to go out to evangelise, but some of us stay to help those in the Church i.e. look after the flock while the shepherd goes out to look for the lost sheep.

Friend who however declare to be unbelievers, are all good people and all help each other, sometimes ask for prayers in certain circumstances. We need to be gentle with these people and possibly show them the Way by our own actions.

People generally do not like change and it is going to take great faith to carry out our plan of evangelising. What we want for people is Love.

We all agreed that the parable of The Prodigal Son was very well explained showing how, although the younger son was totally disrespectful to his Father, his Father was overjoyed and speechless when he returned home, running out to meet him with a kiss. Just as our Heavenly Father would do.

Group 2

These two chapters are the heart of the book.



Need to be enthusiastic about change which is needed for the growth of the Church - doing same things simply produces the same results. Churches are full of 'older brothers', (from the Prodigal Son parable).

Need to be very vigilant for people who wish to come back or join the Church.

Like Christ, we need to go out to where the people are rather than sitting and waiting for them to come to us.

Suffering is part of the journey which is not an easy one for the Church. Christ had a vision for His Ministry which he then went out and followed.

We need to decide which values we wish to hold and move forward. Without Jesus peace, perfect love and forgiveness are not possible. Reconciliation is an urgent task, and our missionary work needs a sense of urgency.

Group 3

We all loved how this Parable was broken down and dissected. There was a great comparison with the 'older son' to older people in our community. There is room for everyone in our Church, the Parable confirms that.

We need people to stay and look after the 'current flock'. But unfortunately, there will always be the hardliners who usually only look inwards and do not want change. Jesus came to look out and seek put the lost and we are all asked to do the same.

This is not easy, we felt, to approach strangers and speak about God. Reactions can be varying so we should be careful and diplomatic.



Funerals and weddings are good opportunities to welcome people of other faiths or of none, in a loving and welcoming way. We need a vehicle to continue the journey with anyone who expresses an interest in forming a closer relationship with the Lord.

We all agreed of the importance of prayer over everything and everyone. We should always be asking the Holy Spirit for help and guidance. We discussed how beneficial the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday was to allow people to spend time in silent prayer.

We went on to discuss how whether we thought it would be beneficial to have women priests/deacons. In other denominations female priests were not always accepted. We all thought that allowing priests to marry would be a step in the right direction, already Anglican Priests who have converted are accepted with their wives and families.

We concluded that change needs to be done softly and carefully and that it was so important to be forgiving without reproach. We are all sinners!

Group 4

We loved the 'lost but found' theme of the Prodigal Son – we can all identify with the 'younger son'.

The 10 points that Fr Mallon makes about the parable of the Prodigal Son are very well made – some very familiar but many we had not picked up before.

The father did not focus on the son's blurted out repentance but talked over him. He had returned and that is all that mattered to his loving father.



The father tries to comfort his elder son but is determined to continue with the party plans regardless. This shows us that it does not matter what we do, our Father in heaven forgives us and there is rejoicing in heaven.

The Parable should be called the loving Father – He reserves the right to forgive.

The 'elder son's' heart is hard and cold, and, while we may have sympathy with him, we must have forgiving loving hearts.

People do not like change.

We agree with Fr Mallon that statistics are important. They are an important factor in preparing for change.

There will be a group that will not want to change – we need to be patient with them and give them time. They have a desire to do what is right and we must not be resentful towards them for holding us back. People can become angry – this must be avoided.

Some of us were taught that we had to earn our way into heaven with good works, now we are taught we can only get there by God's grace. When new ideas come along it is hard for people like the 'elder son' to accept them.

We know we are in God's hands but it is difficult to let go of all our beliefs and leave it all to Him.

Praising God and helping our neighbour is what Jesus did and what God wants us to do.

Efforts to bring people to the Church can be fruitful.



NEXT MEETING

**14th October
7:30 p.m.
“Beyond the Parish”**

Chapter 6-7: “Our New Reality” - pp. 97-104

Harvey Martin

Chapter: 8 “Our Journey” - pp. 105-122

Charles Pinsent

Chair Person: Alice De Lima

Secretary: Anne Colquhoun