

St James News: Thought for the day – Monday 6th July 2020

Thankfulness – Revd John Marshall

Thoughts on prayer from Mark Oakley in the Collage of God

An anonymous man once wrote a prayer which I feel sure came out of his faith in the God who hides himself and so makes himself known. In the words of this prayer we can see how God dissolves stale expectation and forges the one gift that was made to live in the courageous heart – thankfulness:

I asked for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity that I may do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel my need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I received nothing that I had asked for;
But everything that I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered
I am amongst all men, most richly blessed.

What do you think of this prayer?

Bible Reading: [1 Kings 19:11-13](#)

Song: [I will say by Lou Fellingham](#)

Prayers:

Power of God, be our protection; Wisdom of God, be our guide;
Word of God, be our inspiration; Shield of God, be our defence;
Son of God, be our salvation; now and always. Amen.

Saint Patrick's Breastplate, Book of Armagh, 9th century

Faithful God,
when you call, may we respond;
when we falter, be our guide.
When you speak, may we hear;
when we question, be our wisdom.
When you ask, may we answer;
when we hesitate, be our resolve.
When you show, may we see;
when we disregard, be our conscience.
When you lead, may we follow;
when we stray, be our shepherd.
When you send, may we go;
when we fear, be our courage.
When you challenge, may we listen;
when we fail, be our rock.
When you give, may we receive;
and may we love, as you first loved us. Amen.

Paul Martin, Bolton and Rochdale District Chair - Methodist Church