

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: 12th May 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

The Last Day.

"If today were to be your last day, would you do anything different?"

That was one of the questions we thought about at a very interesting meeting of local churches (Deanery Synod) recently at West Norwood Crematorium. For various reasons, not least since we are still in the Easter season, I have been thinking a lot about death recently. For some of us, for very good reasons, that is something too painful to do. But for the rest of us, that is perhaps something we do not do enough?

This unintentional neglect, can leave us and our loved ones unprepared for the one certainty in life. For example, have we written a will? Have we given instructions as to what our funeral will be? Have we made financial provision for that? If we have, have we communicated it to those who need to know? Our loved ones will be carrying their grief for us, we can save them stress and additional work on top of that by attending to these matters.

The bible has a phrase, *putting your house in order*. This also can include spiritually and relationally as well as practically. Do we tell our loved ones, that we love them, enough? Is there someone we need to say sorry to? Is there someone we have not been in touch with for too long? Is there someone who is truly sorry, who we have yet to forgive? Is there something left undone? Most importantly, have we made peace with God, through Jesus?

We may be reluctant to think about these things, because we might fear that we are tempting fate. However, for the person who follows Jesus, that is something we need not worry about. None of us can inadvertently bring forward the time of our death by preparing well for it. Indeed, by doing so, we rob death of some of its chaotic power. In Christ, making sure our house in order, far from being morbid, is liberating and life giving. It clears the space for adventure! I wonder if this might have something to do with what Jesus meant, when he said he had come to bring life and life in all its fullness?

BIBLE PASSAGES:

Jesus said - Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?
...Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.
- Matthew 6:27, 34.

PRAYER:

Gracious God, through love you formed a universe created humanity,
stepped into history, broke the power of death.
Companion Jesus, in love you came to form your body on earth create bonds
of compassion,
step into systems of injustice,
break through all that binds.
Energetic Spirit, fill me with that love that I may form relationships of grace,
create communities of kindness,
step into today with courage,
break bonds of discrimination.
Amen.

Jill Baker, local preacher, Strathclyde Circuit