

St James News: Thought for the day - Thursday 11th June 2020

Thought for the day - Rev John Marshall

I have spent some time in hospital and I think I can relate to Roger McGough's feelings.

The Wrong Beds

Life is a hospital ward, and the beds we are put in
Are the ones we don't want to be in
We'd get better sooner if put over by the window
Or by the radiator, one could suffer easier there

At night, the impatient soul dreams of faraway places
The Aegean; all marble and light. Where, upon a beach
as flat as a map, you could bask in the sun like a lizard.

The Pole, where, bathing in darkness, you could watch,
The sparks from Hell reflected in a sky of ice. The soul
could be happier anywhere than where it happens to be.

Anywhere but here. We take our medicine daily
nod politely, and grumble occasionally.
But it is out of our hands. Always the wrong place
We didn't make our beds, but we lie in them.

Janet Morley includes this in her book *The Hearts Time* and comments
"Reflect on where life has placed you, and whether you are fully inhabiting this or
wishing you were elsewhere. Try counting your blessings, but also clarifying what you
have the power to change if change is needed".
That sounds appropriate for now.

Song: Blessed be your name by Matt Redmond - you can listen to it [here](#)

Bible verse: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them,
for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." -
Deuteronomy 31:6

Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name

Every blessing You pour out, I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Prayer:

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.