

St James News: Thought for the day – Thursday 25th June 2020

Shopping - Rev John Marshall

Do you like shopping? I do. I used to go to the co-op, down the road and across the road (when there was very little traffic). I learnt to queue in Sainsbury's when you had to queue for each category of food – dairy was a speciality – do you remember the butter pats (like paddles)? In those days I didn't show up over the counter so the person behind might get served first. In Eden Lilley's I was picked up, put on the counter and given a dad's cookie.

This was all good practice for shopping in lock down. As always in shops I am impressed by the pastoral care and consideration given by the workers there; so thank you all.

Jesus waited and chatted to the woman at the well while the disciples went shopping. They considered the logistics of shopping for at least five thousand people; and they thought Judas may have been going shopping.

Isaiah says this about shopping

“Ho! Everyone who thirst, come to the waters and you who have no money, come buy and eat. Yes come buy wine and milk, without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good and let your soul delight itself in abundance.”

- Isaiah 55:1-2

Jesus said “I am the bread of life.” - John 6:48

You might look at Proverbs 23:23 “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”

Song: You give rest to the weary - you can listen to it here-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXV14flm-XQ>

You give rest to the weary

You bring strength to weak
As they wait in Your presence
There is grace for their need
So I'll wait, I'll wait
Yes I'll wait for You

I will say of the Lord 'He is my refuge'
I will say of the Lord 'He is my strength'
I will say of the Lord 'He is my shelter, my hiding place'
I will come to the source of all creation
I will drink from the well that never dries
I will draw from the one who won't grow tired, the Lord of all

You can come in the silence
You can come in the noise
Bringing peace in a moment
Bringing comfort and joy

Prayer:

Gracious God, in a world where corruption, deceit, suspicion and 'fake news' regularly fill the headlines, we are full of gratitude for the gospel of Christ, which brings light, hope, truth and 'good news' into our lives.

May the confidence that we have new life in Christ make a difference to how we respond to the people and circumstances we encounter, so that our words and actions become 'good news' for others. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Gill Newton, Sheffield District Chair - Methodist Church