

CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 April 2016

MONDAY 4 APRIL

Good Morning All

Welcome to Week 10 the penultimate week of Term 1.

Our theme for this week is **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**.

The Bible reading was from Luke 10:25-37 on pages 1096 and 1276 in the Wesley Bibles.

The story of the Good Samaritan is a reminder of our **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** to show care and compassion towards others ... to imitate and to emulate God's character ... Be compassionate as God is compassionate ... to be kind hearted, considerate, caring and gentle.

As we experience the change in seasons, the Church too recognises the change brought about by the resurrection of Christ.

We are in the Church season of Eastertide which extends from Easter Sunday through to Pentecost where the whole season is one of celebrating Christ's resurrection.

I had the rare experience of riding in a taxi the other day. The driver was an immigrant from Sri Lanka who had two children and loved living in Pukekohe. He was a baker by trade and emigrated to NZ a few years ago under the Work Scheme programme.

We began talking about Easter and he told me he was Muslim and even though he was of the Islam faith, he observed the Easter holidays like everyone else.

He thought it was important to know what Easter was all about and that everyone should know whether Christian or not.

We observe other holidays and know what they are about. He felt that it was his **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** to learn these things since he had chosen to emigrate to New Zealand and now considers NZ to be his home.

We live in a world where every decision we make will impact upon someone, somewhere, in some way. This is the way of our living in the world. Be **RESPONSIBLE** ... Be compassionate as God is compassionate. **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** is a movement of our individual personal will, willed by God, willing us collectively to be the people God intends for us to be. God willing us to be willing.

HAVE A BLESSED DAY

TUESDAY 5 APRIL

Good Morning All

It's a beautiful sunny day at Wesley.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY is our mantra for the week.

The Bible reading was from 2 Peter 1:5-11 on pages 1371 and 1544 in the Wesley Bibles.

v8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive

in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

v10 Therefore, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fail.

Faith has to be more than a belief in certain facts and the evidence of that is witnessed in our actions, growth in character and the practice of ethical discipline Peter lists several of faith's actions – learning to know God better, developing perseverance, doing God's will, loving others.

These actions though require a bit of work, they're not optional and are a continual part of our life. We don't master one action and then move onto the next, but together work on maintaining them all as part of our everyday life, all the time.

We are empowered and enabled by God.

We are given the PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY to learn and to grow.

We are saved so that we can grow to resemble Christ and serve others.

God wants to produce his character within us.

Our faith takes us beyond what we believe. Are we willing to be taken and actively be God's will be done?

Have a blessed day

WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL

Good Afternoon All

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY reminded me at the end of the school day that I had not sent the chapel message out for today.

God is good ... all the time!

'Methodism was born in song' was heard very clearly today as the School sang this morning at chapel.

It is our PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY to give thanks to God at all times.

School sang the Samoan hymn of thanksgiving ... E lo'u Tama e.

It's part of our PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY to tell Jesus how we feel about him.

School sang 'As the deer pants' based on Psalm 42:1

It's cool to let God know we're up for the challenge and accept PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY for stuff.

School sang 'Here I am Lord' based on 1 Samuel 3:4

It's all goods to ask God to watch our backs. God is our example of PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY God is all compassion.

School sang 'Guide me now O great Jehovah' in five different languages.

All the time ... God is good!

We have had a blessed day here at Wesley and pray that all of you reading this have also experienced the same blessing.

THURSDAY 7 APRIL

Good Morning All

THANK YOU to Year 11 students Eneasi Vakauta, Semisi Fa'asisila and Simione Ofa for leading worship this morning.

The Bible reading was from Galatians 6:2-7 on pages 1279 and 1454 in the Wesley Bibles.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

v4 Each one should test their own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to someone else.

v5 For each one should carry his own load.

At the end of the day we are each RESPONSIBLE for ourselves.

The School is RESPONSIBLE for making sure the teachers teach us, for making sure we are fed and cared for, providing a safe living and learning environment.

What is our PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY in helping the School to achieve these things.

Perhaps it is to wake up on time, to clean our rooms and dorms before coming to school, making sure we have our bags and right books for the day, making sure we turn up to class on time, doing our school work, respecting our school property, our teachers and one another.

We give thanks to God for the example of PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY God is and for the opportunities we have to step up and show we are RESPONSIBLE people. As God is RESPONSIBLE, we should be RESPONSIBLE.

Have a blessed day

FRIDAY 8 APRIL

Good Morning All

TGIF and the end of the penultimate week for Term 1.

Our prayers and thoughts for Mr Sanson as he continues working towards fullness of health and wellbeing.

We continue to uphold in prayer Mr Warren Togatama as he continues to work through his health issues.

We pray for Damien Leavai who is in Middlemore Hospital with rheumatic fever.

Go well to the Firsts, U14 and U15 rugby teams who are having their first hit out tomorrow at St Peters in the City.

The Bible reading was from 1 Corinthians 13:11 on pages 1249 and 1428 in the Wesley Bibles.

v11 'When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I grew up, I put my childish ways behind me.'

Being a child is the mandate and go ahead to be exactly that, a child.

We explain away our children's behaviour through youthfulness, the lack of life experience, for being childish.

As children they can only be children, they know no other way to be.

Being 'truthful' and telling the truth is not a matter defined by one's age.

Whatever our age, the expectation that we will always speak the truth no matter how difficult, is a given.

Sometimes as children their age predicates what truth/s can be shared and when.

There is a level of scrutiny that happens around telling the truth and the 'whole truth and nothing but the truth' is often lost in translation.

If our children grow up understanding that truth is an honest expectation then 'the whole truth and nothing but the truth' will be the only truth available to them and to us As God is truthful, so we are to be truthful.

Have a blessed day and weekend.