



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**The Beacon Parishes Mission Community of Ipplepen with Torbryan,  
Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland**

**FIRST READING**

**Genesis 22.34-38, 42-49, 58-End**

So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

'I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son."

'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

'May you, our sister, become  
thousands of myriads;  
may your offspring gain possession  
of the gates of their foes.'

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

## **PSALM**

### **Psalm 45.10-end**

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;  
forget your people and your father's house,  
and the king will desire your beauty.  
Since he is your lord, bow to him;  
the people of Tyre will seek your favour with gifts,  
the richest of the people with all kinds of wealth.

The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;  
in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;  
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.  
With joy and gladness they are led along  
as they enter the palace of the king.

In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;  
you will make them princes in all the earth.  
I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;  
therefore the peoples will praise you for ever and ever.

## **SECOND READING**

### **Romans 7.15-25a**

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

## **GOSPEL**

### **Matthew 11.16-19, 25-End**

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

### **Jesus Thanks His Father**

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

## Reflection by Reader Tessa Amies

THOMAS - APOSTLE - TWIN - GOSPEL-WRITER - DOUBTER.

Last Friday the church celebrated the life and work of St. Thomas. Thomas Didymus (twin), one of the 12 apostles, who sometimes got it a bit wrong - (human - like us!), mentioned in each of the gospels and in particular John. The first time we hear about him is when he is encouraging the apostles to return to Judaea to visit Lazarus who was very ill. The Jews had threatened to stone Jesus last time they were in that area so the disciples were afraid to return. However, it is Thomas who volunteers saying 'Let us also go, so that we may die with him'. (impetuous? human? like us?)

The second time we hear about Thomas specifically is in that wonderful passage after the Resurrection when Thomas would not believe that the disciples had seen Jesus in that upper room. The following week Thomas was there, he saw the resurrected Jesus, he was able to touch the wounds in his hands and side and he believed instantly. 'My Lord and my God', he exclaims. He had the proof he needed.

Later on, once the early church had been established Thomas travelled, preaching and teaching through Syria and Parthia and maybe even on to India. It's thought he founded a small church in Malabar. During this time, he is said to have helped a local ruler build a new palace, because of this Thomas is considered to be the patron saint of architects and designers. It is thought he was killed by a spear, probably martyred and that a stone cross marks his burial spot near Madras.

In 1945 two farmers were looking for fertilizer for their fields in the valley of the Upper Nile in Egypt. They found a large jar, the lid sealed with bitumen and in the jar were 52 pieces of ancient texts, one of which is known as the Gospel of St. Thomas. The writings were part of the treasure of a non-orthodox Christian monastery which had been closed down in the 3rd or 4th century AD. The Gospel of St. Thomas had not been legitimized by the early church and so was not put in the New Testament. The Gospel is not a chronological record of the life of Jesus. Rather it is a collection of sayings, some of which are almost familiar but often with a small twist. The majority start with the words 'Jesus said . . . or The Master said . . .' A few start 'His disciples said . . .' and a few start with an individual name 'Simon Peter said . . . Mary said . . .', etc. Here are a couple of examples, remember they are considered heretical! If you'd like to see a copy of the Gospel, there will be one on the font in Denbury Church for the next week or so!

*8. Jesus said;*

*The Man is like a wise fisherman who cast his net into the sea.*

*He drew it up from the sea full of small fish.*

*Amongst them he found a large and good fish.*

*The wise fisherman, he cast all the small fish down to the bottom of the sea. He chose the large fish without trouble.*

*He who has ears to hear let him hear!*

*47. Jesus said;*

*It is impossible for a man to mount two horses,*

*for him to stretch two bows;*

*And it is impossible for a servant to serve two masters*

*Otherwise he will honour the one and offend the other.*

Amen

Keep safe and God Bless.

Tessa Amies