



Link Up!

**‘Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.’
James 1:12**

Looking forward to August

We are starting a new series on Sunday mornings entitled ‘Hot Topics’, which will look at some subjects which are challenging for Christians.

On Sunday 9th August we will look at ‘Medical Ethics’ and Nicky Adolphe will be speaking about this.

On Sunday 16th August with Ken and family away on holiday Janet Matterface will look at ‘Faith in the Community’.

Then on Sunday 23rd August with Ken still away, Stephen Chaloner will look at ‘God and Money’.

Our service on Sunday 30th August will be a joint service with Parkstone Baptist Church at our church when we will look at ‘Women in Leadership’.

Ken will be away on leave from Monday 10th until Sunday 23rd August inclusive. He will be back on Monday 24th August. In his absence contact Janet or one of the other deacons for information or help.

I’ve always thought it was a bit mean that God didn’t allow Moses to enter the Promised Land; after all despite his initial reluctance and his regular complaining Moses did lead the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt, through the Red Sea, and through 40 years wandering in the desert.

A quick glance at Numbers 20 appears to show that it was Moses’ disobedience which caused the problem. The Israelites were thirsty and had no water. God commanded Moses to speak to a rock, which would cause water to flow from it. Rather than speaking to it, Moses actually struck the rock twice with his staff. For whatever reason, Moses wilfully disobeyed God’s instructions. Perhaps he didn’t trust God, perhaps he didn’t think speaking was a grand enough gesture, perhaps he was fed up and simply couldn’t be bothered, perhaps he was impatient and angry at the Israelites, or perhaps he had given up on caring for his people and helping them to see God’s holiness. I wonder if any of those things feel familiar? After years, or even decades of following God through thick and thin, do you have a bit of sympathy for Moses – that he became a bit jaded and cynical, that he lost a bit of hope, that he simply couldn’t be bothered any longer?

Other Notices:

Our dear friend, Bronwen Blake passed away on Wednesday 29th July. Please remember her sons Paul & Keith and their families at this sad time. The Funeral will be at Harbour View, date to still be advised.

We have had two invitations to join the fellowship at Parkstone United Reformed Church over the summer: -

A group of us could go to the church in Commercial Road on a Monday for a lunch which they put on every week. There is no charge for this. And/or we could join them for trip in a limo to a place of interest (suggestions invited for destination). This is also free of charge. If you are interested in either of these offers, then please see Ken or Janet.

Don't forget that we are now recording the Sunday sermons and putting these onto our website. So, if you are missing from church on Sunday you can catch up online during the week. The web address is www.longfleetbaptistchurch.co.uk.

Also, you can go to our YouTube channel to listen to a series of podcasts called 'Diving Deeper' where Ken discusses one or two of the bible study questions that the Monday and Wednesday Bible Studies look at with some of the folk who attend these groups. You can hear these by going to www.youtube.com/@longfleetbaptistchurch6537

In verse 12 God informs Moses and Aaron 'Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.' Whatever Moses' motivations for his disobedience, scripture is clear that it is his lack of trust, his lack of honour and his unwillingness to witness to God's holiness which leads to his punishment of not being able to complete his task of leading God's people to the Promised Land.

For the Jews, it is hugely problematic that Moses, one of their great historical leaders was so disobedient and so dishonouring, and that God punished him so severely. But for us Christians, all is not lost. Fast forward approximately 1500 years to Matthew 17 – the transfiguration of Jesus. Whilst we usually read this account from the perspective of the three disciples, Peter, James and John, what about looking at it from Moses' perspective? In Exodus 33, Moses was told that he could not look on the face of God, and in Numbers 20 he was told he would not enter the Promised Land. Yet here in Matthew 17, Moses stands in the Promised Land talking face to face with God himself.

There may be times we feel like Moses did during the 40 years in the desert; tired, fed up, angry, wondering why we should bother. But we know that God is holy, that he deserves our trust, that he deserves our honour, and that he calls us to witness to his holiness. We can also be certain, that despite our failures and weaknesses, one day, like Moses, we will stand face to face with God in the Promised Land.

Rev Ken Adolphe