

The Salvation Army

B **SCOMBE**

Palmerston Road

www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk

Sunday 6 September 2020

**Recorded Morning Worship led by
Majors David and Jane Alton**

When Perry Mason met Bonnie & Clyde



To KNOW Christ ~ To LIVE Christ ~ To SHARE Christ

BOSCOMBE CORPS NEWS

Prayer Requests

We have a number of our corps family who need our prayers at the moment for various reasons. Please pray for Colin Lowe who is having his cataract removed on Monday, Alison Lowe who is still recovering following her recent surgery, Lynette Gregory, Derek and Vi Kittle. Please pray for any you know who are facing difficult circumstances relating to employment, health or relationships. Pray for those who live alone and for many of the older members of the congregation who are finding this time particularly difficult (Thank you to all those who are helping, making phone calls or sending cards – maybe there are others who would like to do something like this).



People News

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Tom Nock and Danielle Begley. Many congratulations to you both and best wishes for your future together.

Congratulations to Major Jane Alton who has achieved an MA (merit) in Applied Theology (with mentoring) from Moorlands College.

BH1 Update

The staff at the BH1 Project continue to be busy, serving the community with the available resources they have. There are approximately 40 homeless clients within the BCP Council area, and policies are back to pre-lockdown conditions, and it is getting more difficult to house those on the streets. We continue to work with the council and all the agencies, trying to support them the best we can. We continue to serve breakfast and lunch to approximately 30 homeless clients every day.



Alongside this, we support about 50 single clients or couples with daily food provisions, as they are struggling to survive on Universal Credit and Housing benefit. We see an increasing amount of people who have lost their jobs, looking and applying for work with not much hope for a response. We see a whole new group of people, many who coped

quite well before the coronavirus. We continue to work with other agencies, like the Foodbank, trying to support them the best we can.

Monday continues to be our busy day, with us distributing food bags received via THQ - these bags are being distributed throughout the UK through a private sponsor, and we are receiving weekly deliveries from Southern Division, organised and packed at Hedge End Corps. By providing weekly stats for these bags, we discovered that the Boscombe community is one of the five most deprived areas in the UK!

We are fortunate to partner with many stores in the area, being able to pick up food each day and distribute to our clients has helped us keep to our budget. However, we feel the pressure on the financial problems that many charities are under at this time, and being aware that the Salvation Army will have difficult months ahead, with uncomfortable decisions needing to be made. We have raised over £5,000 on our JustGiving page, and many of our corps folks have contributed, and we are grateful and blessed for each and every donation. It encourages us and helps us to keep going.

For some of our clients, the coronavirus and the enforced lock-down has been a real opportunity to turn their lives around. To see this and to see them emerging sober, housed and looking so well has been tremendous. However, for some this has been a lonely and difficult time, and it can be hard for us as staff to support them, without being able to change their circumstances. Please continue to pray for us over these coming weeks, as the weather is turning and we are trying to find new and better ways in supporting them, whilst keeping to government guidelines and dealing with an uncertainty that can be frustrating and tiring. We thank all those who have supported us in so many different ways over these past few months.

Newsletter

If you have any news that you would like to share, why not let us know and we will add it to the next edition of the newsletter.

Bring Me Sunshine!

Remember, if you have a joke or story that you would like to share with the Corps, please send it to Joanne who will include it in a future edition of the 'Bring Me Sunshine' page. You can either contact her via text, WhatsApp, Messenger or by emailing her on joanne.allcock@salvationarmy.org.uk.

PRAYER MATTERS

Monday 7 September – (NSB608) (Mark 12:31) ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’...There’s no commandment greater than this. *Lord, help us to see our ‘neighbours’ as you do and show love to all.* (IN) We are reminded daily on the TV News just how much hatred there is in our world. After watching one such bulletin, into my mind came again Ralph Carmichael’s lovely words.. *There is a quiet place far from the rapid pace, where God can soothe my troubled mind... New strength and courage there I find, then from that quiet place I go prepared to face a new day... WITH LOVE FOR ALL MANKIND!* What a challenge!! But eminently doable if we depend on Christ’s boundless power and grace.

Tuesday 8 September – (NSB584) Henri Nouwen puts it this way... *O Lord, awaken the consciousness of all people and their leaders; raise up men and women full of love and generosity, who can speak and act for peace, and show us new ways in which hatred can be left behind, wounds can be healed, and unity can be restored’.*

Wednesday 9 September – (NSB585) (Luke 5:17-26) I love this story of the paralyzed man’s four friends. If ever there were four ‘Fixers’ ... it’s them! no space you say? no room? right then!! the roof’s coming off and nothing will stop us placing our friend right in front of Jesus!! Those in the room’ll move and make space pretty fast when the mat’s hovering just above them!! I’d like to think they’d look at Jesus and apologize for kicking up such a rumpus... maybe they did, maybe not!! Either way, Jesus knew all about them, how far they’d come, the struggles they’d had, everything! not to mention their dogged persistence! And Luke tells us ‘**Jesus saw their faith**’ and their friend was forgiven and healed.

Just imagine, the love that must've beamed out of His eyes and enveloped those four Fixers, as He watched them, knowing all. Wonderful, just wonderful!! Now, think of the people you pray for regularly. *Father God, show me how I can be instrumental in helping others encounter Jesus personally. Amen.* (THQ in part!)

Thursday 10 September – (NSB622) (Luke 5:21-23) For Jesus, physical healing was an outward demonstration of an inward grace – forgiveness of sins. *Lord Jesus, make me aware both of people's inner needs and their physical circumstances as I live missionally. Amen.* (THQ)

Friday 11 September – (NSB647) *Lord our Healer, please strengthen and grant healing to children and young people who are manifesting mental health problems – as many as one in eight. Grant insight to parents, teachers and others who can reassure, comfort and facilitate them to find paths of recovery.* (CARE)

Saturday 12 September – (NSB599) Jesus, Bread of Life, we pray for the Government to be increasingly willing and able to provide better income support, especially for the five million people in households with children who experience food insecurity during lockdown and still need to use food banks. Amen. (CARE)

Sunday 13 September – (NSB582) Sustainer of the Universe, thank You for the magnificent power, order and pattern of all You have made in the heavens, on earth, underground and in the deep waters. As autumn comes, please bless all who work through the harvest season to protect, cultivate and care for our world. Amen. (CARE)

Worship and Word



Sunday 6 September 2020

This act of worship has been prepared for use at home and follows the service posted on the Boscombe Salvation Army YouTube channel and corps website. Spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you

Welcome

Major David Alton

Song 878: My Jesus I love thee

MY Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,
For Thee all the pleasures of sin I resign;
My gracious redeemer, my Saviour art Thou,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love Thee because Thou hast first lovèd me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I will love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as
Thou lendest me breath;
And say, when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

In mansions of Glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee and dwell in Thy sight;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

William Ralph Featherstone

Prayers led by John and Diane Meredith

Bible Reading: Acts 24:1-9 (NIV)

Matthew Alton

Introducing the Wider Army World - Denmark & Greenland Territory

Lieutenants Chris and Louise Hull

Musical Item: Great I am

Mike and Jenny Clark

Bible reading: Acts 24:10-27 (NIV)

Ray Moye

Opportunity to give in the offering

Featuring music by Alistair Taylor: Shine

Introducing Major Shelagh Clift

Song: Cornerstone (my hope is built)

(accompanied by Liverpool Walton SA Worship Group)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

*Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless, stand before the throne
Eric Liljero, Reuben Morgan, Edward Mote, Jonas Myrian

Bible Message

Major David Alton

What if the bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde had been made State Governors instead of being killed in a shootout or what if television presenters and married couple Eamon Holmes and Ruth Langsford were actually power crazed, evil despots?

I haven't lost the plot, I'm trying to describe Felix and Drusilla.

Acts 24:1-2 sees Paul on trial before Marcus Antonius Felix, Roman Procurator of the Province of Judea, who is half of an evil power couple.

The prosecuting lawyer, Tertullus, sucks up to Governor Felix, whose name means 'successful'. Felix was the younger brother of the Emperor's treasury secretary. The brothers were freed slaves who had ruthlessly climbed the greasy pole to success.

Felix was cruel and corrupt and his rule was marked by internal feuds and disturbances, which he put down with force and violence. So he knew that Tertullus' compliments were lies.

Court room dramas in film on TV and in books have been popular through the years; Perry Mason, Crown Court, Judge John Deed, Rumpole of the Bailey, LA Law, Alli McBeal, The Good Wife, Suits and John Grisham novels to name a few.

Acts 24 is like an episode of the old Perry Mason legal dramas, with Paul as the truth telling Perry Mason. Tertullus presents false charges; that Paul is a 'troublemaker', who 'stirs up riots among the Jews all over the world', and that he 'tried to desecrate the temple'.

Paul quietly offers the truth, resisting the urge to do a Jack Nicholson from the 1992 military court drama 'A Few Good Men' where he shouts:

“You want the truth, you can't handle the truth!”

Back in our court case, in refuting the charges, Paul says, v14:

¹⁴ I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way”

'The Way' is the name of the Jesus movement, before it was called Christianity. 'The Way' – What a great name for the followers of Jesus.

He said 'I am the way' – a way is a path to follow, a clear certain route, a road that leads to somewhere. The way describes how to do something, the correct manner, the right approach: an appropriate a metaphor for our relationship with Jesus.

Remember the old Christian cartoon postcard thing, I would probably find a version in Jane's Bible. It asks:

If it were a crime to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

The truth is, there should be. Jesus said, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works..."* It is by godly living that we give evidence that we are Christians.

Paul goes on and says:

I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶ So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

Paul is echoing the advice of his fellow believer Peter when from 1 Peter 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Paul explains to Felix how the gospel is grounded in the scriptures; it was promised by the prophets and is a continuity and fulfilment of Judaism.

Paul's witness, must have interested Felix, it must have struck a nerve, more correctly the Holy Spirit must have struck a nerve because we are told in verse 24:

²⁴ Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.

Enter Drusilla, Felix's second wife; conveniently his first wife was also called Drusilla, which saved him a bundle on monogrammed towels.

Drusilla of Judea was an ambitious woman who divorced the King of Emesa and ignored Jewish law to marry Felix, a gentile pagan. Her Great grandfather was the Herod who murdered all the infants in searching for Jesus and her great uncle was the Herod had John the Baptist beheaded.

We heard in vs 24 that Paul "**spoke about faith in Jesus Christ**" and then verse 25 tells us

²⁵ As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."

In the face of the prevailing culture, in the presence of the prevailing power, Paul preaches the gospel; there it is in its essence - Faith in Christ Jesus, righteousness, self-control and judgement.

The NIV says that "**Felix was afraid**" The King James Authorised Version says "**Felix trembled**" The Message says "**Felix felt things getting a little too close for comfort**" J B Phillips "**Felix became alarmed**"

The power of the gospel disturbed, disquieted, concerned, challenged Felix, as it does to the corrupt and sinful, be they individuals, groups or regimes. The righteousness of God, lived out, proclaimed, highlighted and enacted will get too close for comfort, cause alarm and fear for those who live far from it or pursue an entirely opposite course or an opposing trajectory.

Why the Felix and Drusilla history lesson? Well I want to draw the contrast between Paul and those who were sitting in judgement on him. Paul, the representative of Christ stands before a couple who were every inch representative of their times, the culture and the norms of their society. They mirror something of our culture too.

We live in a culture that prizes fame separated from achievement, fortune without responsibility, ambition without concern for others, power without responsibility.

What message, what alternative does the church, the body of Christ on earth offer in the face of this?

Biblical scholar Rev Dr Walter Brueggemann wrote that:

“The gospel is fiction when judged by the empire, but the empire is fiction when judged by the gospel”

Felix doesn't get that he's on trial, not Paul. His way, the Emperor's way, the way of greed, of way of violence, the way of corruption, the way of selfishness and self-protection is on trial before Christ, the way truth and life.

I'm not turning this passage over to you this morning to ask you or tell you that you need to be doing something. I'm not beating you with this story to criticise you for something you are doing and shouldn't or something should do and aren't.

Instead I want you to realise what the gospel is, what the WAY, the good news of Jesus Christ. I want you to see where the gospel is at work in the world; in the work and witness of The Salvation Army, in the work and witness of corps and individuals. I want you to look for it, give thanks to God when you see it. Pray for it and take heart from it

There is one more thing, it starts with a question. As followers of Christ, people of **'THE WAY'** do we fully appreciate that the Gospel is a very dangerous idea?

Tertullus tried to prosecute this dangerous idea, Felix endeavoured to put the dangerous idea on trial.

Paul's stood before Felix and Drusilla spoke about faith in Christ Jesus and he talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come Paul proclaimed the good news, the gospel of 'The Way', the gospel of Christ, the dangerous idea, turning the tables on them all.

So, what about us, you and me, what's the bottom line for my life and your life?

As Rev Dr Walter Brueggemann says

We have to see how much of that dangerous idea we can perform in our own lives. There is nothing innocuous or safe about the Gospel. Jesus did not get crucified because he was a nice man.

So here is the bottom line, be followers of 'The Way', live that dangerous idea, be the dangerously different followers of Jesus, the people of God given righteousness and Spirit empowered self-control. Let's ensure there is enough about our dangerous life in Christ that would get us convicted if Christianity became a crime

Felix, the successful, eventually lost his job and poor old Drusilla died whilst holidaying in Pompeii when Vesuvius erupted. They put off responding to 'the Way', to Jesus, to the gospel offered by Paul.

As believers and followers, disciples of Jesus we can't put anything off, there's no time to delay. It's time to be dangerous in our living loving and being.

So, that's what we learn from what happened from when Bonny and Clyde met Perry Mason!

Song 399: To God be the glory

TO God be the glory, a Saviour is mine,
Whose power is almighty, whose grace is divine;
My heart He hath cleansed, He is dwelling within,
So wondrously saving from sinning and sin.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done!*

Earth's pleasures and treasures no longer allure,
My spirit aspires to the things which endure;
To walk with my Saviour in garments of white,
My highest ambition, my constant delight.

The world overcoming by limitless grace,
I worship the Lord in the light of His face;
So with Him communing, like Him I shall grow,
And life everlasting enjoy here below.

Charles Collier

Benediction:

Major Jane Alton

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