



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

8 eptember 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

**Mark 7:24-37 (NLT)**

## **The Faith of a Gentile Woman**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret. <sup>25</sup> Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, <sup>26</sup> and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, <sup>27</sup> Jesus told her, "First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs."

<sup>28</sup> She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates."

<sup>29</sup> "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup> And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

## **Jesus Heals a Deaf Man**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. <sup>32</sup> A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him.

<sup>33</sup> Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "*Ephphatha*," which means, "Be opened!" <sup>35</sup> Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly!

<sup>36</sup> Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news. <sup>37</sup> They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."

**James 2:1-10 (NLT)**

## **A Warning against Prejudice**

**2** My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favour some people over others?

<sup>2</sup> For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes.

<sup>3</sup> If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, <sup>4</sup> doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

<sup>5</sup> Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him?

<sup>6</sup> But you dishonor the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court?

<sup>7</sup> Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

<sup>8</sup> Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

<sup>9</sup> But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.

<sup>10</sup> For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.

## **Other Lectionary Readings:**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalms 125 James (11-13),14-17



"A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools."

~ Douglas Adams, Mostly Harmless



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks that Beulah is safely home; and also give thanks that her daughter Jenny is able to stay with her for the moment.
- We pray for the many people facing conflict - in war, at work, or in personal relationships.
- We pray for the upcoming local government elections throughout NSW.
- We pray for the many people who are unwell, or still recovering from illness.
- Our love and sympathy are extended to the Bissett and Bird families on the death of Melinda.
- Spring is with us, and we pray for everyone impacted by hav-fever.

### Meg's Musings

Looking around Tamworth at the moment I am amazed at so much beauty.

Usually, it seems as though "the hand of spring" carefully measures out the blossoms and flowers over a long period.

This year, it's as though that hand has instead opened freely, allowing everything to flower at once.

Our city seems to be a riot of colour and perfume.

My free spirit tells me to enjoy the abundance. My more cautious self asks whether so much abundance may have consequences - such as an early, and long, summer.

It can be difficult to accept the bounty which God provides. We may want to ask, "What's the catch?" The God who sent Jesus to our world is a God who continues to love us, and provide for us.

*Blessings from Meg*



### Words from Rev Geoff -

In the month of September, and concluding on the feast of St Francis on October 4, many people focus on creation. For Christians, creation is no longer an academic discussion about the theory of evolution it is now viewed as an essential part of mission, in partnership with others who share concern for "our common home".

On this 2nd Sunday of the Season of Creation, the scriptures urge us not to lose hope in the face of the urgent and complex climate crisis facing us as species are becoming extinct pollution is increasing and the global response is missing its sustainability targets. They remind us to trust in God Who is faithful and is even now working to save us. They challenge us to confront the false values of wealth and consumption that are so common and so destructive and to pray for Christ to open our eyes, our ears, our hearts.

Looking to indigenous communities and other oppressed peoples, do we see the environmental racism from which they so often suffer? Do we see the growing ecological crises behind the increasing flows of climate refugees? Does their suffering stir our compassion? Do we hear Christ's command to welcome the "stranger," who approaches in the form of a climate refugee?

In Mark 7:31-37, Jesus struggles, groaning, to give healing to a deaf person with a speech impediment. Without a doubt, the work over the next decade of restoring the household of God, our Common Home, will be difficult and challenging.

Are we ready to pray for the healing power of Christ to be at work in us and through us so that we may hear and speak clearly the Word of God given us to share in this critical time?

Can we offer ourselves to join Christ in the work of opening eyes and ears, freeing tongues, and supporting bold efforts to embrace the full ecological conversion required in these times?

*Reverend Geoff*



**Yutori (Japanese):** Intentionally slowing down to simply be, breath, listen and appreciate the beauty of nature and life. Consciously creating space to relax, reflect, and integrate rather than being constantly busy or rushed.



"This may just look like a parking ticket, but it actually represents the best interaction of my day today.

Another lady and I were both pulling into the same car park and as we've both realized what was happening, I gave her a reassuring smile and wave, and I pulled out to let her have the parking spot.

Next we both wander over to the parking ticket meter and the lady told me she felt so bad for taking the spot... and of course I told her not to be silly and that it was no problem at all. She seemed to think this was such a kind act, but to me it was a no brainer. Then she paid it forward.

As she was in front of me at the parking meter, she proceeded to purchase her parking ticket, and then put more coins in the meter advising me 'I've paid for your parking. Thank you'.

It may seem like an insignificant turn of events, but in 10 minutes we two strangers were able to show mutual respect and kindness, and both walked away with huge smiles on our faces. I'm still smiling.

This stuff matters. Kindness matters. Respect matters. It makes the world a better place." ~ Melanie Jäne

### Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville



Open 9:30 to 1:00pm  
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.  
Cuppa & chat always available.

### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush



"ME 'N JACKSON ARE EXACTLY THE SAME AGE. ONLY HE'S DIFFERENT. HE'S LEFT-HANDED!"

"A professor gave a balloon to every student, who had to inflate it, write their name on it and throw it in the hallway. After the professor mixed all the balloons up, the students were given 5 minutes to find their own balloon. Despite a hectic search, no one found their balloon.

At that point, the professor told the students to pick up a balloon and hand it to the person whose name was written on it.

Within 5 minutes, everyone had their own balloon.

The professor said to the students: "These balloons are like happiness. We will never find it if everyone is just looking for their own. But if we care about other people's happiness, we'll find ours too." ~ Unknown

### Singing Group - West Tamworth

2nd & 4th Monday 10am

Followed by a cuppa and a chat....



### CHURCH SERVICES

15 September

8:30am Gowrie ~ Meg Mangan

11am West Tamworth ~ Meg Mangan

22 September

11am West Tamworth ~ TBA

29 September

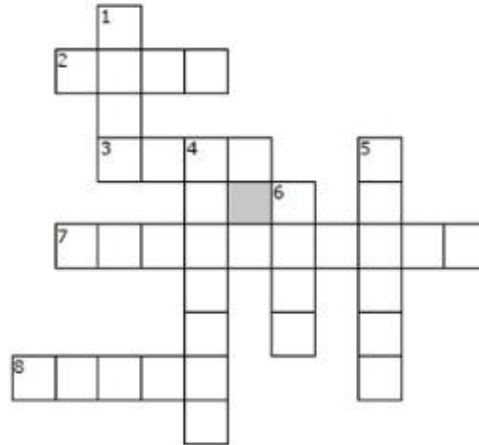
11am West Tamworth ~ Meg Mangan



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

# Playing Favorites

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. James 2:1 (NIV)



## ACROSS

2. A yellow metal often used in making jewelry
3. Having great material wealth
7. Showing partiality toward a person or group
8. To form an opinion about something or someone

## DOWN

1. Having little or no wealth and few or no possessions
4. Articles of dress; wearing apparel; garments
5. Deserving of blame
6. A small band of precious metal worn on the finger

B R O T H E R S N B A S W R R  
 Y L P X N E E E G F O I Z F I  
 O Q U H G C S G O S G S B I N  
 U Y M D Y O U F L B L T W L G  
 I T U H H V M M D V F E O T W  
 I J D C W C F C P O O R H H D  
 P R O D C L O T H E S S C Y T  
 G D I S C R I M I N A T E I E  
 E Y Y C L U W E N E Z H O T J  
 P D U E H E P F S O T L I T J  
 N E I G H B O R F B P R K B K  
 C P T X H N T P I X O H Y Q I  
 X L S Z R F K Y E V W M D P T  
 S B Z K N K Z M A G U I L T Y  
 F X X O A T X F E K I I X P R

RICH	FAVORITE	FILTHY	DISCRIMINATE	GOLD
CLOTHES	BROTHERS	NEIGHBOR	JUDGE	POOR
EXPLOIT	CHOSEN	SISTERS	GUILTY	RING

~ Sermons 4 Kids

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus