

Listen to God sermon .

When I was a child I would never really listen to the good advice of my parents like “Don’t run in front of the swing next to you as it will knock you over “but of course the roundabout was free so off I jumped off my swing and BANG I was knocked over , there were lots of other scenario’s like this one ,where I had let good advice go over my head .

Then as I grew older, I would argue over this good advice as to why my ideas were not quite right, but I still decided to go ahead any way with the words of “well don’t say we haven’t warned you “ringing in my ears.

Then I grew up and realised this advice was right, and my parents would then help me to sort out my mistakes.

So isn’t this exactly what’s going on in these readings today from Jeremiah 32:1-3a & 6-15.

Jeremiah was looking to the future, when the people had come to realise that they had sinned against God ,but eventually turned back to him .Jeremiah was obedient to Gods instructions to go and purchase a field during a time of national unrest and whilst in exile, but Jeremiah had faith in Gods future promise that most certainly guided his actions even when the present time seemed so hopeless. This passage demonstrates the importance of spiritual worth over worldly possessions even in the most unsettling, dire circumstances.

1 Timothy 6: 6-19 tells us of contentment and godliness with the love of money, but how that money can lead us to destruction. It teaches us that to have spiritual wealth, it will lead us to greater satisfaction, that money could never buy. To achieve full satisfaction, we should be willing to share all we have, to do good deeds, as this leads us all to store up treasures for ourselves in heaven, by serving our God in the here and now.

Luke 16: 19-31 gives us a glimpse into heaven and hell by the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man even though he has been sent to hell, still thinks he is much more important than Lazarus, he still hasn’t learnt his lesson that he could of helped Lazarus when he was on earth, but even now still wants Lazarus to help him and his brothers .He had not listened to a word the prophets taught ,but wants his brothers to be told so they don’t fall into the same fire pit with him . But of course his brothers have exactly the same chance now to do what’s right they just need to listen to the prophets .This passage is a clear warning to all of us about using our own wealth that is self-serving instead of sharing out not only our wealth but that of the world’s resources ,it reminds us that what we do here on earth determines our eternal fate .

We say here on earth as it is in heaven, what if we turned that around and said there in heaven as here on earth.

What would you like to find in heaven?

Do we want to all be equal? Do we want everyone to eat? Do we want everyone to have a roof over their heads? Do we want everyone to have clean water to drink and to wash in? Do we all want love and peace for the whole world?

That sounds like heavenly bliss, so why can’t we achieve that here on earth?

I think its maybe because we don’t listen to our father God often enough.

We know what we should do yet we still tend to a lot of things in our own way, we use our will to make them happen, sometimes forgetting its Gods will to be done here on this earth as in heaven. But do we listen, do we hear God speaking to us through the scriptures or sometimes other people, but again I ask you the question do we listen?

Maybe sometimes, but every time? From my own experience I have to say NO.

I sometimes think my heart has been hardened by the world around me by what I see or hear from the media ,I feel I have lost the spiritual side of myself ,I have been relying far too much on my own will rather than seeking Gods guidance ,when this happens I end up being confused, disappointed and sometimes down right sad ,I know I have sinned because I should of gone to him and asked for his advice after all that is just what he wants us to do and he is there ready to listen and guide us through what ever we are facing good or bad.

What if years ago I had listened to the advice of my parents and got of my swing walking away from it before going over to the roundabout, it would have saved me the bump on my head and the bruised hands and knees.

What if I hadn't argued when I was older but had a reasonable chat as to why my idea was slightly off and I could have made it better therefore avoiding the "I told you so "

So I urge you to think about your wealth, your resources, where can you share them after all just like the rich man, we cannot take them into heaven with us, but we can help to make someone else's life a little more comfortable and God our father sees all that you are doing, he knows what you give especially when it comes straight from your heart. This is the start of storing treasures for yourself in heaven, by bringing a piece of heaven to here on earth.

Amen.