



The VINES Uniting Church

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THE GRAPEVINE 23/10/2022

SERMON: Lk 19:1-10 Sinners and Amazing Grace

Last Sunday was a wonderful opportunity to share with the McAvenna family in a baptism celebration for Harrison and Henry.

It got me thinking about the conversations I have had with people about the nature of sin, particularly when associated with children. I mean, how can we consider children sinners, particularly if they are only babies?

You would be surprised how many people balk at the term sinner, maybe they are happy to use that term to describe others, but never themselves!

Recognising sensitivities to the word sinner, I like to use the term from Romans 3:23 "*we have all fallen short.*" That is a great term.

If the pass mark is 50, we score 49. Paul used it in reference to God. When we compare ourselves to each other... we may feel good, but when we compare ourselves to God... well there is an obvious difference.

Peterson in his book *The Contemplative Pastor* writes:

"The word sinner is not a moralistic judgement. It is NOT a word that places humans somewhere along a continuum ranging from angel to ape, assessing them as relatively "good" or "bad"... Sinner means something awry between humans and God. In that state people may be wicked, unhappy, anxious and poor. Or, they may be virtuous, happy and affluent."

p 118 Contemplative Pastor

The result is the same. There is a disconnect by virtue of who we are as human beings. A baby human being will grow into an adult human being. By definition the same disconnect that occurs as adults, emerges out of our "humanness". By definition then "*we all fall short*" of our connection with God and each other, if I am honest. Is this cause for despair?

Or can recognising we are a sinner be a term of hope?

Peace - Rev DJPrior

❖ OUR VISION:

To be a vibrant, growing community of Faith.

❖ OUR MISSION:

*To reach out and reflect God's Love –
connecting others to Christ.*

Zacchaeus

¹⁹ Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. ²In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was. There were many others who wanted to see Jesus too. Zacchaeus was too short to see above the people. ⁴So he ran to a place where he knew Jesus would come. Then he climbed a sycamore tree so he could see him.

⁵When Jesus came to where Zacchaeus was, he looked up and saw him in the tree. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, hurry! Come down! I must stay at your house today."

⁶Zacchaeus hurried and came down. He was happy to have Jesus in his house. ⁷Everyone saw this. They began to complain, "Look at the kind of man Jesus is staying with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!"

⁸Zacchaeus said to the Lord, "I want to do good. I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay them back four times more."

⁹Jesus said, "Today is the day for this family to be saved from sin. Yes, even this tax collector is one of God's chosen people."^[a] ¹⁰The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."

GRAPEVINE 30TH OCTOBER.

Please note that I'll be away next week and Chris McAvenna will be editing the Grapevine. Please send your entries to Chris by 12 noon on Wednesday 26th October.

Thank you, Colleen..

Home Aloners' Lunch WEDNESDAY 2nd November.

Our next lunch gathering will be at the

VINES GOLF CLUB

REYNELL ROAD

WOODCROFT.

Meet at the Club at 12 noon.

RSVP to Bob Manson on 8382 7242 or

Bob Stone on 0439 817 613

By Sunday 30th October to enable confirmation of booking numbers.

FOOD PARCEL MINISTRY

Thank you and may God bless you for your continued support for this ministry.

This week we are in need of the following items.

- UHT Milk
- Soup
- Pasta Sauce
- Cereal
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Vegetables
- Toiletries or a Cash Donation marked "Food Parcel Ministry".

Thank you again.

Leon and the Pastoral Team.

Next week:

30 OCT 2022 Lk 18:9-14 Denial vs Acceptance

Reverend D J Prior.

Remember OUR key MESSAGE:

Phone a Friend

Connect with others and CHOOSE LIFE

'Cos to Grow stronger through COVID

We have to pass on God's love.



LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church

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Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer
by 12 noon Wednesday poppy@adam.com.au