

Mark 9: 38-50

Using the Name of Jesus

³⁸ John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn’t in our group.”

³⁹ “Don’t stop him!” Jesus said. “No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Anyone who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

⁴² “But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands. ⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one foot than to be thrown into hell with two feet. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It’s better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ ‘where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.’

⁴⁹ “For everyone will be tested with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavour, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.”

NLT



A group of people who pray privately
(and in strict confidence)
for specific situations.

If you, or anyone you know,
is in need of prayer for any reason,
please contact: **Co-ordinators**
Sheila Grabham—01409 231581
s.grabham@btconnect.com OR
Sue Brice—01409 231630
bricesusan@yahoo.co.uk

The United Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott **Sunday 26th September**

17th Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

9.30 am All Age Service, Ashwater
11.00 am Communion by Extension, Beaworthy
11.00 am Harvest Service & Lunch, Clawton
11.00 am Morning Service, Halwill
6.30 pm Harvest Service & Supper, Highampton
6.30 pm Evening Service, Black Torrington



Readings

Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29
James 5: 13-20
Mark 9: 38-50

Collect

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Interim Priest-in-Charge (part time)

Revd Stephen Skinner
sjmskinners@btinternet.com
07554 142264

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Mission Community: for all who live and work in our Mission Community

All who are mourning the death of a loved one

Rest in peace all who have recently died

Those who are ill or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Bryan Hancock, Grace Spelman, Mavis Watson, Peter and Maureen Ellis, Malcolm and Judith Lusted, Jenny Hyslop, Brian Colebrook-Clark, Tim Kirk

For our Benefice Schools, all staff, pupils and parents

Farmers and agricultural workers and all those who rely on the land for the livelihood, that they would be blessed with strength and wisdom.

All those who organise and support food banks, that they would continue to have the resources they need to serve our communities at this time.

Dates for your diary

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 28th September | 4.15 pm | Hand Bell Ringing Black Torrington Church |
| Wednesday 29th September | 10.00 am | Morning Prayer Black Torrington Church |
| | 2.30 pm | Living in Love and Faith Hope Chapel, Black Torrington |
| Thursday 30th September | 8.00 pm | ZOOM Compline |
| | ZOOM Meeting ID: 317 183 8102 | Passcode: 848984 |
| Friday 1st October | 10.00 am | Morning Prayer Beaworthy Church |
| | 3.00 pm | Clawton PCC meeting At the home of Paul |
| Sunday 3rd October | 11.00 am | Harvest Service and lunch Ashwater Church |
| | 11.00 am | Harvest Service and lunch Beaworthy Church |
| | 11.00 am | Café Church Black Torrington Church |
| | 7.00 pm | Harvest Service and Supper Tetcott Village Hall |

Thought for Sunday 26th September 2021
17th Sunday after Trinity

‘CHOICES’

Our reading from Mark’s Gospel this week tells us several things, and they are, as it were, straight from our Lord’s lips.

His disciples are eventually going to be left on their own and the implication is that they do not know that they are going to be part of the final and vital part of their masters final and vital plan and, to put it plainly, they have to buck their ideas up!

Perhaps that’s why Jesus uses such dramatic, and what some would call extreme exaggeration, such as cutting off one’s hand, a leg or tearing out an eye to prove his point, yes all rather hard to take in but it makes the point very strongly to say the least.

The point is they, the disciples, and all followers of Christ have, if they want to be true to him and help to grow the kingdom, to make choices that may seem extremely hard at the time.

Sometimes they are choices that are concerned with our personalities, our lifestyles, and our relationships also maybe about where we go, what we read or watch, even what we consume.

Putting it simply, ‘Get rid of the things that are in the way’ is what Jesus is saying here.

He also emphasises how others may do things like healing, or as he calls them ‘deeds of power’ in his name, and those who help the disciples in his name too, will be rewarded.

Then Jesus, as on several other occasions, uses the example of salt to illustrate his message.

God’s people should be full of flavour, the ‘salt of the earth’ and finally, if they are to be followers of the prince of peace they must learn to live at peace with themselves

Many blessings
Jim

