

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

17th September 2017



The parable of the vineyard workers



is stinging because it hits us at our vulnerable point, economics. In the world of capitalist economics of which we are all a part, the parable offends us because it is illogical and lavish to pay those who don't work as much as those who do work. If we are to follow Jesus and not the world, we are to

adopt Jesus vision of economics. While the **world says** God helps those who help themselves; Jesus says God helps those who **cannot** help themselves. What is Jesus view of economics? The answer is manna. The word manna means "what is this?" (Exodus 16). There are four defining features to "manna economics"?

1) The Israelites have been liberated from an oppressive and cruel economic system where they were slaves in Egypt. God takes them into the desert and teaches them an alternative way. The first message is that we can be liberated from our oppressive economic and political structures. We don't have to feel trapped or in despair. The great obstacle is the conviction that we cannot change because we are so dependant upon what is wrong – but this is an addict's excuse and it will not do.

2) Ex 16: 16-18. Every family is told to gather enough for their needs. This is in contrast to Egypt and to the western world of capitalism where the majority never have enough and the minority have too much. In Exodus those who gathered more never had too much and those who gathered less did not have too little. i.e. this is not communism where everybody has the same. There is space for difference – in relationship to each other my 'more' is not too much and your 'less' is not too little. This is also not capitalism with its infinite toleration for huge wealth and poverty.

3) Ex 16:19-20 says that the manna should not be stored up. When the Israelites were in Egypt their lives were defined by surplus accumulation. It is the story of Joseph who stored surplus grain in Genesis. This too is our story of capitalism which is: Accumulate! Accumulate! Accumulate! It is the whole basis for our consumer culture spurred on by advertising. The second aspect is **circulate** the wealth do not **concentrate** the wealth.

4) Ex 16:22-30 is the fourth dimension of economics. The Israelites are told to rest. To rest is a leap of faith – to trust that the world can still function without you. It disrupts the human need to feel in control. It goes further than that. It is profoundly political. Every seven years they were commanded to rest. Debts were cancelled and slaves set free. The system was designed to prevent the rich becoming too rich and the poor too poor.

To conclude, if we adopt an economic metaphor to describe God as in the parable, we should allow God to return the compliment and adopt a God metaphor to describe how economics could be. What are your thoughts on a "Manna economy" gleaned from a reflection on Exodus 16?

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

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THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Tuesday	26th September	10.00am - Friendship Group
Wednesday	27th September	9.00am - Meditation 10.00am - Maranoa Services
Friday	29th September	10.00am - Friday Service
Saturday	30th September	REMEMBER DAY LIGHT SAVINGS STARTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

On Tuesday 26th September the Friendship group will meet together for Morning Tea at 10am. Margaret Sloan will host this morning at 21/15 The Avenue. All very welcome - for transport please ring Joy on 6628 1610.

PET BLESSING SERVICES

To cater for the pet blessing service on 1st OCT, Reverend Desiree thought we might put the church "in the round". The church will be returned to "normal" the following week – 8TH Oct.

2018 BUDGET

Any Parish Group who would like an item to be considered in the budget please speak to Treasurer Johnny before 7th October.

Next week's	8.00am	Welcome home Campeys
Morning Tea:	10.00am	Lynne Watt and Fiona Barnes

Bible Readings:

24th September

Exodus 16.2-15

Matthew 20.1-16

1st October

Luke 9: 57-62

Please turn off your mobile phone during worship.
Please note a hearing loop is installed on the right hand side of the church.
Toilets are located in the front of the Hall - the building next to the Church.
First Aid Kits are located in the Church & the Hall.