**Holy Habits: Biblical Teaching – Week 5**

This week we look at some favourite passages from the Bible.  We have a wealth of choice.  In the Old Testament we could pick creation (Genesis 1 - 2: 4), the rainbow (Genesis 9: 1-17), Joseph (Genesis 37 - 50), the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 1-17), Ruth, David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17), Elijah (1 Kings 18), Esther, the prophecies of Christ (Isaiah 9, 11, 52 - 53), Daniel, Jonah, several Psalms, and more.  I have selected Psalm 23 in the King James version.  Try to read it as if for the first time.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.* *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

In the New Testament there are too many choices to list in one short email.  I have chosen one chapter from the Gospels and one from the Epistles.  The Gospel chapter is John 14.  To help us hear it as if for the first time, this is JB Phillips’s translation of how it starts:

*You must not let yourselves be distressed - you must hold on to your faith in God and to your faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s House. If there were not, should I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? It is true that I am going away to prepare a place for you, but it is just as true that I am coming again to welcome you into my own home, so that you may be where I am. You know where I am going and you know the road I am going to take.”  “Lord,” Thomas remonstrated, “we do not know where you’re going, and how can we know what road you’re going to take?”  “I myself am the road,” replied Jesus, “and the truth and the life. No one approaches the Father except through me. If you had known who I am, you would have known my Father. From now on, you do know him and you have seen him.”*

Romans chapter 8 is full of the most amazing truths, and its last 2 verses are my favourite verses in the whole of the Bible:

*For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below - there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

I pray that we may all know this truth in our hearts and in our lives.

*Produced by Glenn Evans on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  All quotations from the Good News Translation unless otherwise stated.  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*