Holy Habits: Worship – week 11

Hello everyone,

       When he was asked which commandments should guide our lives, Jesus gave us these two (Mark 12: 29-31). Firstly, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (from Deuteronomy 6:6). Secondly, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” (from Leviticus 19:18)

          These two commandments are to cover all aspects of our lives, including our worship. We are called to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. When we   come to worship, we are to put our whole heart into it. We should bring to it all of our being, our heart and soul. We are to give it the best resources of our mind, our thinking, our reflecting. We are called to give it everything we’ve got.

        Psalm 103 says,”Bless the Lord, O my soul; and ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, bless his holy name.” Surely, nothing less will do.

        The second commandment of Jesus is to love our neighbour as ourselves, and this too must be a watchword in our worship together. How might it be relevant, I wonder?

         Worship, at its best, should prompt us to reach out to our neighbours, both near and far, both as individuals and as a church community

          We should be considerate towards one another in our worship, being mindful of the needs and concerns of others.

          We should be forgiving, just as we are forgiven.

          We ought to pray that we might be enabled to live out the values of God’s reign within our community and neighbourhood.

          We should be open and welcoming to all and to each, no matter what.

             I’m sure there are other things you could add to this, and if we keep these commandments, then our worship will be the most enriching and fulfilling experience, blessed by God.

       In John 14:23, Jesus says,” Those who love me will keep my commandments, and my Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with them.” WOW.

                   God bless,

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