

LOCKDOWN DAY 88 – 22 JUNE 2020

Molweni amazing family and friends of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: Matthew 10:24-32 Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

It's a new week and we renew our resolve to stay positive and continue to take our Diocese forward. You are a blessing to us. It is estimated that the Western Cape Province will experience its peak soon of active Covid-19 coronavirus cases. We cannot pinpoint the exact date. Please be extra vigilant to slow the spread.

By God's grace, this is the fiftieth Reflection that I am doing, since low week. Thanks for welcoming me into your space. I will gradually bring them to an end.

Today's gospel yet again tells us that there is no need for us to be afraid. *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing."*

People often understand **fear of the Lord** to be something negative. Fear can be real, like fear of the unknown, fear of the silent, sneaky coronavirus. The more we know God, the more the **negative** fear is tossed out, tossed away. **Perfect love casts out fear** (1 John 4:18). Positive fear is an act of reverence to God. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight"* (Proverbs 9:10). Respect who God is and live your lives according to God's **amazing grace**.

Jesus said to the disciples and says to us **do not be afraid**. The more the disciples got to **know Jesus** and the more that we get to **know, love and serve God**, the more we understand the essence of God, who is **love**. We will then look at the world with the **eyes of faith** and not with the **eyes of fear**. **God's love remains constant**. Nothing, no thing can separate us from the **love of God**. Even in a blade of grass we see the value of God's indwelling, a gift from the **gentle hand** of God. Any form of **healthy love** has its **root** in the **love of God**. In the first book of the Bible, in **Genesis** we read that we are the **crown** and **delight** of God's creation.

Matthew 10:27 records that Jesus says: *"What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light"*. This sounds like a contradiction. Darkness obscures, blocks out God's **light**. Jesus is **light**. Jesus is **illumination**. Jesus is **truth**. The **darkness** referred to here by Jesus is not **general darkness**. It is the **darkness**, the **obscurity** of **lack of faith**. Jesus speaks to us in our **darkness**, in our **lack of faith** that **obscures** God's light, keeps it from being seen. When we **allow** the **light** of God to **enter** our **darkness**, everything hidden becomes clear. Jesus needs and wants to get into every aspect of our lives, every aspect of our earthly existence. We need to open ourselves to God's grace. God's **grace** is **freely given**. It is up to us whether we want to **freely receive** God's grace. This is an individual decision.

In Matthew 10:30 we read that *"even the hairs on your head are counted."* Oh gosh, does that mean that those with bald heads, half of the male population, will not get into heaven? **Sjoe!** Not at all. The expression is saying to us that God knows everything about us. We are assured that **God's grace** will be given to us in the **concrete situations** of our **individual lives**. Do not fear. Know what love is. The more we know **what love is** and **who love is**, the **chains** around our **minds**, the **chains** around our hearts, **the chains** around our memories are **broken**.

Jesus says **do not fear**. The choice is ours whether we want to stand under the banner of the evil one or the banner of Christ? Young people, remember the medley: *"I went to the Enemy's Camp"*. God does not **destroy**. God **creates**. Satan can only destroy us when we don't believe in the **power of God**. Jesus conquered evil through the cross, the empty tomb. There is more **power and presence of God** in the world than the **presence of the evil one**. **God's Grace** is freely given to us, all we need to do is **believe** and **ask for it**.

Let us joyfully proclaim the great teaching of Christianity that is expressed so wonderfully in The Nicene Creed on page 108 of An Anglican Prayer Book.

Please **reach out** to someone today to tell them how amazing they are and share with them the **amazing grace** of God in your life.

Let **us bend** our knees and **bow** our heads before God as we approach God's throne of **grace**.

We pray for any in positions of leadership in our churches that they may be examples of faith for others to follow. As the Covid-19 coronavirus reaches its peak, we pray for all those infected and affected. We pray God's comfort and consolation for those who are suffering in any way. We continue to pray that God our heavenly parent, will bless our earthly parents to be examples of truth and faith for their families and children. We pray for a way through the taxi strikes. We pray for our beloved dead as they are received into the happiness of eternity. **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all for ever. Amen**

I am, Because we Are, Because God is ... Opening Hearts to heal God's World. *Do not lose your courage.*