



**St Matthew's
Holland Park
Weekly Bulletin
24th August 2025**



This week's Revd. Morris' message: I wonder what Jesus may be calling us to do today to help build God's Kingdom here and now?

Today's reading is packed with drama and meaning. Imagine if this miraculous event unfolded in the midst of one of our own Sunday services? *How would we all react?* But there is more to all this than may be immediately apparent.

Firstly, the woman's handicap was not organic but because of 'a spirit'. The phrase '*she stood up straight*' may be literally be translated as '*she was straightened up*'. Thus, God not only set her free from the evil spirit's influence, but also 'straightened' her as well. So, Jesus' laying on of His hands was the conduit between the Divine announcement of healing and the Divine action itself.

Secondly, Jesus' expression 'to set free', used in verse 16, emphasizes that this action is a Divine necessity for Jesus - not merely a choice of His making. So, Jesus' response to the Synagogue leader is along the lines of '*This is the Divine nature to seek to heal when need is encountered*' [Incidentally, Jesus here is using the same expression that the Synagogue leader used when describing the Divine necessity to work for 6 days in verse 14.]

Thirdly, after shaming His critics, He uses the famous mustard seed analogy [followed by the yeast analogy in verses 20 and 21] to illustrate some vital aspects of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom is present and unfolding as it should to its full purpose but may not be perceived nor recognised by many as it develops. Further, incredibly, it seems necessary for there to be some co-operative effort between God and His faithful ones who voluntarily pledge allegiance to Him. We are invited to listen, be guided and then act upon His leadings in order for the Kingdom of God to be made more manifest in our midst. The mustard seed needs to be planted and the bread kneaded and baked. Thus, the critics actions based upon following legalistic rules was contrasted with those who, by His Grace, act in agape love to serve and minister - even at the risk of moving outside of their comfort zones.

So, what lessons can we take from this gospel reading today?

As David Schnasa Jacobsen says in his article referred below: '*When God is up to something, prepare to be unbound: whether from confining diseases, or social norms about persons with disabilities, or even holy pieties.*'



As faithful folk, we are invited to adopt a posture of being prepared to serve as we are gifted in our season of life, actively listening to the Divine leadings [those niggles, nudges .. and sometimes shoves!] and when so prompted to then act. We can expect that we will be

challenged to widen our expectations, 'rules' and norms as Jesus calls us to join with Him in building God's Kingdom in our lives, in the circle of our families and friends, in our parish family here at St Matt's and in our wider community.

*Oh, and by the way, when we do receive a Divine Gift - let's follow the afflicted woman's example and remember to then immediately give our Praise and thanks to God!! **wonder what Jesus may be calling us all to do about God's Kingdom today? Gospel reading: Luke 13: 10-17 To dig further: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-21-3/commentary-on-luke-1310-17-2>***

Upcoming Parish Activities : Midweek service - NB Anglicare Service and Communion Wednesday @10:30am; Bible Study Wednesday night at Heather's @ 7 pm; Op Shop - Thursday 9am until noon; Bible study on Friday morning 10:00am. Date Claimers: Nicaea Anniversary Event - 12th October 2025 Dr Peter Kline Afternoon tea 2:45 - wine and nibbles to follow Donation \$10; Mega Sale - 6th September 8am-1 p.m. Behind the scenes thx: Our Musicians Clyda, Graham Ivan and Brett Readings for next Sunday: Annette : Jeremiah 2:4-13 ; Ps 81:1, 10-16 ; Alan: Hebrews 13:1-8,15+16; Luke 14: 1-14.

Parish Directory: Revd Morris Rangiwai: 0449 557 351; morris.Rangiwai@anglicanchurchsq.org.au. **NB Revd Morris will be on leave until the 3/9/25** Please refer all pastoral matters to the Wardens. **Wardens:** Heather Walker: 0411556 279; hezzie16@gmail.com Randal Dennings: 0408 878711; randaldennings@gmail.com **Bank Details:** Holland Park Anglican Church Anfin BSB 704 901; Acct: 00000760. **Parish website :** <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/> **Parish Private Facebook site :** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ; **Public Site:** <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ; **Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY: We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.