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### **Weekly Letter – 28 July 2024**

#### **John 6.1-21**

#### **Not the Kingdom of the impossible!**

Perhaps like many people you think miracles are only performed by Jesus Christ, and a few other exceptional people, as miracles are always 'out of this world'. Have you ever considered that you are called by Christ to perform miracles?

Miracles are quite simply 'events that we have no right to expect in the given circumstances'. Or, could you say a miracle is, 'what you think is impossible, beyond what you expect? Deep down disciples often think the 'Kingdom of God' is in fact the 'Kingdom of the impossible'?!'

Here are some examples of what it is all too easy to think – it's impossible.

Forgiving someone who harmed you, and from time to time you have feelings of 'getting even'.

You find someone irritating because you've seen them behaving in a way that is self-centred, and so you try not to engage with them. In other words, we keep some people remote, and for all sorts of unexplained thinking they are uninvited and left alone by us. And yet, we are uncomfortable with the feeling of skirting around people, and we wish these uncomfortable moments would 'evaporate'. They don't, and we find we are 'saddled' with these awkward moments. The danger is we just trundle along expecting no change, showing our lack of faith.

Faith has never been 'certainty', but openness for change/transformation. Faith is where we reject our old insecurities, false explanations, and instead thirst for the God who transforms our world.

With a little faith, we can forgive and choose to leave behind the desire to get even. We can take a small step of faith and stop keeping ourselves away from someone. 'A tiny step of faith draws the future into the present', and so we find we can have the courage to seek and get to know someone, and leave those tired old memories alone. How many scars, injuries and upsets could be treated, if we began with a little faith to seek and remove the 'enemy image'?

Christ, as you know oh so well says, "when you do this for the least of these, you do it for me", and yes you do this act of faith with Christ, for Christ and in Christ.

With Christ's help, we can continue with our conversation, by being honest about our thoughts and trusting that Christ continues to challenge us, to follow him and be open to what is possible, instead of thinking this is impossible! Yes, as a disciple of Christ, you too can perform miracles - quietly changing the world, and not treating God's Kingdom as the 'Kingdom of the impossible'! Or using Einstein's words, stop "doing the same old thing and expecting different results!"

#### **Prayer**

*Every day is proof of your love, - as you bring us to this new day, make us new in mind and heart. Amen.*

**Stephen**

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling.**  
**Bible Readings: John 5.1-15: Ephesians 3.14-21.**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Uniting Church, Sketty**

**Prayers for every household - we will pray for Manor Road, nos. 74-118 and 129-135**

**Tuesday – 30<sup>th</sup> July – 7pm – Discussion Group in Church Lounge Discussion Group.**

Our last conversation of this season will be next Tuesday. We will be comparing Jesus' story of the Prodigal Son / Two Brothers / Forgiving Father to the parable of Jonah. We shall also be wondering what Jesus meant when he answered those looking for a sign by saying that the only sign they would get would be 'the sign of Jonah'. We will be looking for how all this connects with our lives today. Thanks, Simon

**Saturday – 3<sup>rd</sup> August – 10.30 am – Church and Community Green Coffee Morning in Christ Well**

You are welcome to join us for a coffee morning when we hope that some of our neighbours will also come along and with sharing a cuppa we can chat about what would improve our local environment and what we can contribute to reducing the impact of climate change more widely.

*Simon and Adella*

<b>Feeding the five thousand</b> - <i>David Batchelor</i> (URC Prayer Handbook 2024) (Lectionary readings: 2 Samuel 11.1-15 and Psalm 14: 2 Kings 4.42-44 and Psalm 145.10-18: Ephesians 3.14-21: John 6.1-21)	
Thanks to the gifts of nature, seed, earth, sun and rain, and the work of farmers and bakers, daily bread is ours.	those who spread faith in Christ across the world; those who in hospitals and hospices bring healing to the sick and dignity to the dying;
<b>Providing God: we praise the abundance of your gifts.</b> Thanks to the work, teaching and example of Christ, our daily spiritual hunger is fed.	those who work for reconciliation replacing despair and hatred with peace and harmony;
<b>Providing God: we praise the abundance of your gifts.</b>	those who translate and distribute the scriptures so that all may read the good news of Christ's love.
Lord Christ, using a boy's picnic you fed a crowd. We praise you for miracles of multiplication:	Use us and our small resources, to nurture and nourish people in bodily or spiritual need in the name of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.