



THINK ON THESE THINGS..... (our contributor this morning is Tony Wilson)

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 8

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Reflection:

Back in 1968 the singer Mary Hopkin recorded the song 'Turn Turn Turn'. Its music and lyrics immediately became very popular. The words are based on the reading I've chosen for today, which is a very beautiful and well-known passage from the Bible.

Ecclesiastes is a type of writing known as wisdom literature. It was very popular in the late Old Testament period. Proverbs is another example of this type of book. These wisdom books reflect on the meaning of life. They seek to deal with how God's people can live well and prosper, about how we can carry out the tasks life demands of us, and how we can understand evil and suffering in the world. It also offers kings and rulers advice about how to deal with their responsibilities. The wisdom books don't form any sort of consistent system. They are a rather random collection of accumulated wisdom written down so that future generations can benefit from it. The ultimate purpose of this literature is to help people live happy, good and successful lives.

As the weeks go by it becomes more and more clear that the corona crisis is going to be with the world in one way or another for a long while. Wisdom literature seems to me to speak to us insightfully at a time such as this. I'm sure those words 'For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven', rather sum up Wisdom, and can be a guide to us all as we try to live well in these difficult times.

Breath-Prayer for Today:

Lord, we pray that we may apply our hearts to your Wisdom, and that you will reconcile us to your will, and give us a sense of peace which the world with all its troubles, cannot take away. Amen.

