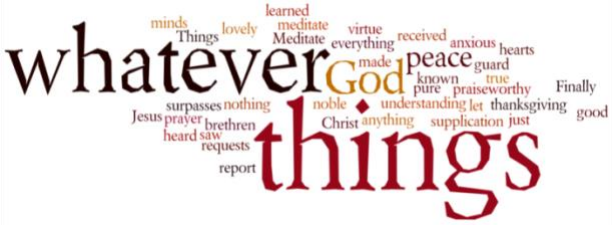

THINK ON THESE THINGS….. (our contributor this morning is Brian Eyles)

Reading: Mark 12:13 -14

Some Pharisees and some members of Herod's party were sent to Jesus to trap him with questions. They came to him and said, 'Teacher, we know that you tell the truth, without worrying about what people think. You pay no attention to a man's status, but teach the truth about God's will for man. Tell us, is it against our Law to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor? Should we pay them or not?'

Reflection:

Jesus did not have to cope with the inquisitorial attitude of John Humphreys but he had the religious equivalent when scribes and Pharisees descended on him all the way from their HQ in Jerusalem. "You say, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'. Well then, Rabbi, just who is my neighbour?"

Like the modern media people they wanted clarity. They wanted rules and regulations that everyone must follow. But Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan and asked who was neighbour to the man who had been mugged by thieves. Jesus's focus is on what makes someone choose to be a neighbour.

We all have enormous freedom to choose so many things. How fortunate we are! Some cyclists wear crash helmets, some do not; some wear face masks in the street, some do not; some choose to smoke cigarettes, and some do not; some people pray three times a day on a mat; some only pray once a day.

In these Pandemic days each of us has to choose how we stay safe and what precautions we should take. Some wear disposable gloves, some do not; some wash their hands 'religiously'! And some do not.

The Lord gives us similar freedom. By the power of the Holy Spirit, by knowing the Gospels, and by belonging together in Christian fellowship we are free to choose Jesus as our model, or as our friend, as our teacher or our companion; as our mentor or our hero; as our guide, partner or our healer.

Breath Prayer:

Lord Jesus, be with us day by day so that we may choose in faith who you are for us and who you are with us.