



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

Reading: Psalm 86:11-13

Teach me your way, Lord,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

¹² I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.

¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths,
from the realm of the dead.

¹⁴ Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;
ruthless people are trying to kill me—
they have no regard for you.

¹⁵ But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Reflection: The amazing paradox of Jesus' message is that, while God's dream is universal and dramatic, it is established through the simple, ordinary actions of ordinary people in each ordinary day. This truth is reflected in today's Psalm, where the Psalmist prays that God would teach him the Lord's ways, give him a pure heart, and inspire him to give God the honour and the glory. This is the heart of what it means to follow Christ – walking with integrity in God's ways, and growing in love for God and others.

Sometimes sticking to these simple principles could bring us into conflict with others, and that's what the Psalmist reflects on in the later verses of the psalm. The Psalmist cries out to God because violent people have threatened him. According to the writer God means nothing to them, which means that God's ways, go right against the ways of the world.

Yet, the Psalmist continues to trust in God's mercy and strength, and this empowers him to stay faithful in spite of the opposition. I guess the basic principle for us to follow is simple. We won't win everyone over, and our faithfulness to Christ will, at times, lead us into confrontation with those who oppose the values of the kingdom, but through it all, we are to trust in God's grace and stay true to the call to love.

Breath-Prayer for Today: Lord God, thank you for your loving, gracious ways. Help me to do as much as I can to reflect your glory through my life.

