



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

Reading: Psalm 78

Listen, my people, to my teaching;

tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth with a proverb.

I'll declare riddles from days long gone—

3 ones that we've heard and learned about,
ones that our ancestors told us.

4 We won't hide them from their descendants;

we'll tell the next generation

all about the praise due the Lord and his strength—
the wondrous works God has done.

Reflection:

The radical inclusivity of Christ, and the constant, consistent merciful care of God for the fickle Israelite people, can be a tough pill for us to swallow. We can sometimes wrestle with the uniqueness of Christ, and the challenging message he preached, on one side, and the seemingly indiscriminate welcome he offered on the other.

We like to feel like we are 'chosen', that we are 'in', and that we have the 'right way', but we need to be careful of becoming like the religious leaders who tried to be gatekeepers for God's reign and ended up excluding only themselves. We need to be careful of judging others by their doubts or complaints, and trying to keep God's blessing for ourselves, only to find the living water flowing out to them in the most unexpected ways.

We may think we find life by "protecting" ourselves and our faith, hiding the good news from others, is always counter-productive, and never leads us to true life.

Rather, it is in radical grace and radical hospitality that life is found. These are the things that should motivate us to, as the psalmist puts it, "tell the next generation all about the praise due the Lord and his strength - the wondrous works God has done."

Breath-Prayer for today: Dear Lord, help us to be always willing to share the good news of your love, mercy and grace with others, so that they in turn would be able to experience your blessing in their lives.