

## Reflection Saturday Week 19 – 2022

### A short story

In a small rural town, there lived two brothers. All of their lives they went around doing horrible things to people including vandalism, stealing, violence, etc. Eventually one of the brothers dies and the other brother visits the preacher to arrange the funeral.

"For my brother's funeral can you do me one favour?" he asks.

"Sure, and what might that be?"

"I'll pay you £10,000 if you call my brother a saint."

The preacher agreed and word spread like wildfire in the community that the preacher would call the worst person in the town's history a saint. On the day of the funeral the people crowded round to hear what the preacher was going to say. Once everyone had arrived the preacher began:

*"Ladies and Gentlemen, we gather here today to mourn one of the most wicked, the most hateful, and maybe the worst person I have ever met in my life, but compared to his brother that is sitting in front of me. He was a saint!!!"*

How unlike the two brothers of the story are to the upright man that Ezekiel writes about. Ezekiel spells out the standard by which we would wish to live and be known: one who never steals, who gives his own bread to the hungry, his clothes to the naked. One who never charges usury on loans, takes no interest, abstains from evil, gives honest judgement, keeps the laws and sincerely respects the observances of the Lord. In other words, one who loves God and neighbour to the best of their ability!!

### Chap walks into a cinema and sits down next to a dog with his owner.

Much to the chap's astonishment, the dog laughed at the funny parts, cried at the sad parts, booed at the villain's wicked deeds, and cheered at the hero's heroics. On leaving, the chap says to the dog owner, *"Your dog's reactions to that movie were amazing!"* *"I thought so too!"* replied the dog owner. *"He hated the book!"*