

## Reflection Monday Week 11 – 2023

Being a follower of Christ is not about maintaining the status quo but about always doing more – a lot more. St Paul believes that we cannot offer enough positive response to the evils of others however terrible they may be. We need a very different perspective, one that involves: *purity, knowledge, patience and kindness; a spirit of holiness, a love free from affectation; the word of truth and the power of God; armed with the weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left, prepared for honour or disgrace, for blame or for praise.* If we are capable of this, we would have little time to do anything harmful to anyone.

An Islamic story on Prayer:

The Moghul Emperor, Akbar, while out hunting, paused for evening prayer. He spread his mat out and knelt to pray. It was at this time that a peasant woman, perturbed by the disappearance of her husband who had left home that morning and not returned, rushed by. Not noticing the kneeling Emperor, she tripped over him. Then she rose and without a word of apology rushed on. Akbar was annoyed at this interruption but, being a good Muslim, he observed the rule of speaking to no one during the namaaz.

Now, just about the time his prayer was over, the woman returned, joyful in the company of her husband whom she had found. She was surprised and frightened to see the Emperor and his entourage there. Akbar gave vent to his anger against her and shouted, “Explain your disrespectful behaviour or you will be punished.”

The woman suddenly turned fearless, looked into the Emperor’s eyes and said, “Your Majesty, I was so absorbed in the thought of my husband that I did not even see you here, not even when, as you say, I stumbled over you. Now, while you were at namaaz, you were absorbed in one who is infinitely more precious than my husband. So, how did you notice me?”

The Emperor was shamed into silence. Later he confided to his friends that a peasant woman, who was neither a scholar nor a Mullah, had taught him the meaning of prayer.