



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

1ST NOVEMBER 2020



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2 Kings 6 1-7 The Miracle of the Axe Head

"⁶ Now the company of prophets ^[a] said to Elisha, "As you see, the place where we live under your charge is too small for us. ² Let us go to the Jordan, and let us collect logs there, one for each of us, and build a place there for us to live." He answered, "Do so." ³ Then one of them said, "Please come with your servants." And he answered, "I will." ⁴ So he went with them. When they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. ⁵ But as one was felling a log, his axe head fell into the water; he cried out, "Alas, master! It was borrowed." ⁶ Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float. ⁷ He said, "Pick it up." So, he reached out his hand and took it."

Reading this text of Elisha, and the prophets who went to cut wood to extend their living quarters because they were growing in numbers is an interesting story. We find that not only do the prophets learn the written and oral teachings of ancient scriptures, but they also had to upkeep their living space and daily chores. As they went to cut wood, one student borrowed an axe to cut his log and, in the process, somehow, lost it in the water! He was stressed about it because it fell in an area that was very deep and there was an extraordinarily strong undercurrent. In that period, iron axes were a valued equipment and an essential tool for a man's survival in the wilderness. It was the one thing that was used for most things of daily practical living and the one thing I suppose that made the difference between life and death when travelling in the wilderness. To have borrowed such an item would have meant that the person who gave it to the student fully trusted that he will return it just as he parted from it! The student was so upset that he asked Elisha to help him.

You might recall borrowing from someone because you needed it for a short time. The person that gave to you also knew that you needed, and it will help you just as it helped them. The man who gave it to the student knew that he was helping the young student build something good for his life. Sometimes we when can be careless with the things we borrow and sometimes do not bother to give it back. It might be a book, clothing, tools, money and etc. Sometimes having someone like an "Elisha" to help us retrieve what we borrowed can reminds us that someone gave us something that is of value to them to help us in our journey is not wasted or was not done in vain. There are those who have returned borrowed item that look a lot better than they received it from the owner or, returned it with an interest reflecting their appreciation for allowing them to use this valuable tool to better their lives.

Have you borrowed anything? Did you return it?

- Arii

St. John's Methven Shop Day

Our Annual Shop Day in the Mall on Friday was a great success. Around \$1300 has been banked. A huge thank you to Faye and Graeme and their team of organisers - to those who phoned parishioners, for those who baked and those who bought! Thank you everyone for your support.



As we come to the end of the fortnight, following the General Election and we wait for the News, whether the Greens will be in or out, I found the prayer in the book, The Shepherd's Call written by Bill Bennett.

Our Nation

God, the source of all power and authority, look upon our nation at this time.

Help us understand what is important in life.

Give society a sense of justice and compassion in its economic,
social, political, and moral life,

May Christian values influence and undergird its direction,
and counter the motives of greed and self - interest.

Guide those elected to political office.

grant that people may listen to each other and accept each other's cultural
perceptions.

Help us challenge inequality and injustice so that healing and growth may follow.

Preside in our nation as the God of love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A prayer used last Sunday at St Andrew's by Rev John, concluding his political debate on the 10 Commandments and the Great Commandment. Caleb's Prayer based on the story of Caleb Joshua 14: 6 - 15.

THE CALEB PRAYER

O High King of Heaven,
Have mercy on our land.

Revive Your Church.

Send the Holy Spirit
For the sake of the last,
the least and the lost.

May Your Kingdom come
to our nation.

In Jesus' mighty Name.

AMEN

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 3rd November

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | with Miranda A time for friendship, fun, and support. Welcome to all pre-school children.

1:00 pm | Steady As You Go | Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being.

Local church this Sunday 1st November, 10:00 am | St. Marks Rakaia | Rev. Michael Holdaway.

St. John's Methven

This Sunday service with a shared lunch at St. John's

St. John's 1st Nov 10.30am Parish Service/ Shared Lunch with Rev Henry from St. David's Ashburton [Pulpit Swap]
Rev Arii at the Hakatere Parish

PLAINS SPEAKING deadline for contributions 15th November 2020. Email Elsa Hydes at esurya@hotmail.com

November Sunday Services

1 st	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Henry Parish Service(shared lunch)
8 th	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Arii
15 th	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Arii
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Neville Burns

PRAYER

Grant us good Lord, the spirit to think and do those things which are good in your sight:
That we who struggle to do good without you,
May, by your grace be able to live according to your will.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.