

Liturgical Date: Year C, Easter 6, 22nd May 2022

Presenter Mel Macarthur

Focus Readings John 5:1-9

Message 10 minutes 20 seconds ***“The Pool of Bethesda as a metaphor”***

Discussion Starters

- 1** Appraise the presenter’s interpretation of the Pool of Bethesda passage on the continuum between: being ‘hopelessly wrong’ and being ‘insightful’.
- 2** Do your answers give you any insights into yourself? What are they?
- 3** Why did Jesus, in your view, respond as he did, thereby giving the ‘thumbs down’ to “Survival of the fittest”?
- 4** How might Herbert Spencer have responded to Jesus’ action?

Lectionary readings for the day

Acts 16:9-15 Paul grasps that the gospel is not meant not just for Semitic people but for Other Mediterranean peoples as well.

Psalms 67 The intention is for all people to revere God: “Let the people celebrate and shout With joy because you judge the nations fairly and guide all nations on the earth” (Vs.4).

Revelation 21:10, 22 -22:5 The tree of life in the New Jerusalem will be replenished by the water of God’s life flowing from the throne; God’s purpose is realised in the healing of all the nations.

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All Age Message: ***“Lydia – God plants seeds in our hearts”***

Length 7 minutes 15 seconds

Precis of AAM

God’s spirit works in our life like seeds, planting thoughts and aspirations and drawing from us the desire to be part of God’s kingdom. Lydia’s conviction started the church in Europe when she met Paul and offered hospitality to him and his companions.

Resources: Uniting in Worship (Blue Book). Psalm 67 – pages 296-297

Mel Macarthur

Retired UCA Minister; university researcher with an ongoing interest in relating scripture to his studies in philosophy and English literature; multi-day remote area bushwalker; pilgrim, by foot and bicycle, to sacred sites world-wide.