

Living in Love and Faith – Part Three

Sunday 22nd May 2022

Introduction

Imagine what it is like to come to St Mary's as someone who finds the Bible's teaching hard...

Is St Mary's a church...

...which is repentant and not self-righteous?

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

(Luke 18:9-14)

...in which we live out our identity in Christ...

³¹ Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

³³ "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

(Mark 3:31-35)

...as part of His deeply loving family?

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

(1 Peter 1:22)

1

Recommended Further Reading:

Is God anti-gay? by Sam Allberry

The plausibility problem. The church and same-sex attraction by Ed Shaw

LivingOut.org