

Sermon Summary
12th after Pentecost
11th August 2013

- The two stories which make up this morning's gospel remind us of two key characteristics desired of disciples.
- The first is that they are to remember that God is faithful and has already given us great blessings: he has been pleased to give us the kingdom.
- The second is that we are to live with a sense of urgency or commitment. We are not promised that these blessings will come immediately. In fact, the parable suggests (second watch... third watch) that things will happen later rather than sooner. But we are expected to live in anticipation.
- Both of these suggest a measure of trust, faith and confidence in God. One thing we do can often subtly undermine this.
- It is our tendency to worry. Note that I do not mean "thinking things out" but "worry": those times when we "squirrel-cage" and let things go round and round in our mind to no visible purpose.
- I recently had a couple of very generous hosts in Perth. The lady of the house talked about her worries. As is the case, things came to a crux on the way to the airport.
- I asked her whether or not her worries were not clashing with the faith she had in God: how could she say that she trusted God to deliver on promises, if she was constantly worrying whether he would?
- Moreover, the things she worried about did not seem to have happened. Her prayers appeared to have been and continued to be answered. Was not her worry also contrary to her actual experience, and therefore, unfounded?
- We all worry, but we need to get out of this habit. For fundamentally, it undermines our faith and trust in God.
- One way to try and get out of this, is actually to revisit the times when our worries have been unfounded and resolutions, through the grace of God, came. Then we break our habit, not by willpower, but by reflection on experience- which makes the task slightly easier.

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