

I've had an interesting time reading some background to today's gospel reading.....
Lynn

Beelzebub – Lord of the flies

The name Beelzebub (Mark 3.22) is a colloquial name for the Prince of Demons which was used across Semitic cultures and beyond. Having been accused of being under the power of Beelzebub, Jesus changes the terminology and speaks of Satan (Mark 3.23). The name first occurs in scripture in 2 Kings 1.2 where Beelzebub is described as the god of Ekron. Possibly originating with a Hebrew word for dung, Beelzebub is a description of the Lord of filth and is often given the title “Lord of the flies”.

Lord of the Flies is also the title of a William Golding novel, first published in 1954, that examines the dark side of human nature. The plot revolves around a group of English school boys stuck on a deserted island. The book was made into a movie first in 1963 and again in 1990.

Beelzebub also features in Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*.

He soon discerns, and weltring by his side

One next himself in power, and next in crime,

Long after known in Palestine, and nam'd Beelzebub.

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**Notices for next Sunday's bulletin to Lynn please
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Weekly Newsletter – 6th June 2021

**METHODIST PARISH OF
TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA**

Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu



Mark is the key gospel for this year's lectionary readings and we are now into ordinary time in the church calendar. The word "ordinary" here means that we are outside of the major Christian seasons. It is generally believed that Mark was the first gospel to be written (between 55 and 65 AD) and just about the whole of Mark is quoted somewhere by the other gospel writers. Literary critics speculate that the material that Matthew and Luke have in common, but is not in Mark, has come from another source nicknamed "Q". John Mark, the author of the Mark's gospel, was not one of Jesus' twelve disciples but appears in the book of Acts as a companion of Paul. His accounts of the events of Jesus' life are succinct and fast-flowing. He tries to lay out the events recorded in his gospel in a chronological order. With its direct approach the reader of Mark gets a quick overview of the life of Christ. So this gospel is an especially good one to recommend to a new Christian who is starting to read the Bible.

Andrew Gamman

I found this background summary helpful.

Lynn

Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[1 Samuel 8.4-11, 16-20](#) The people demanded that Samuel give them a king like other nations have. Under instruction from the Lord, Samuel warned them that a king will make them slaves, but the people did not listen.

[Psalm 138](#) A psalm of David praising God for his kindness, protection and care.

[2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1](#) "Just as God raised Jesus, he will also raise us to life." Our present troubles prepare us for our eternal home.

[Mark 3.20-35](#) People accuse Jesus of having an evil spirit, and even his family think that he is out of his mind. Jesus, who has been freeing people from evil spirits, responds that Satan cannot oppose himself. He adds that his family is everyone who does God's will.

Services coming up:

June 6 Rev Shelley – Communion
June 13 Lynn Pinkerton
June 20 Rev Shelley – Disability Sunday
June 27 Rev Shelley – World Refugee Sunday
July 4 Rev Shelley – Communion - Matariki

Rest Home Services coming up:

June 25 Beattie Home, Otorohanga (Friday)
29 Highfield CHT at 2 pm (Tuesday)

Parish Council this month is this Tuesday June 15 at 2pm

Recycling Batteries

Don't forget there is a container in the foyer for you to dispose of your old batteries safely



We pray for others:

- For the people of Canterbury in the aftermath of their horrendous floods
- For the people of Melbourne who have had their lockdown extended by another 7 days
- For bodies mending after injuries from a fall



A social event to look forward to -

"Put June 26 in your diary, and keep it free. We are planning a Festival of Thanksgiving. This will include a potluck dinner. I think you will all want to be there for this very special event." *Rita*



The new hall windows are installed and completed. There have been two of our busy beavers doing the painting of the inside surrounds this last week and they are looking good. We say a huge thankyou to them for their efforts and their time. We are also grateful for a generous donation to get us

started on the cost of these windows, and would welcome further donations. If you would like to make a special one-off contribution, this can be done online (please add "Windows" in the reference field) or via an envelope on a Sunday morning - again, please indicate clearly that your donation is for the Hall windows.