

Malcolm's Monday Musings : 26 July 2021

Greetings.

This is my 'Monday Musings' email.

First, the solution to last week's easy riddle: Jacob – Genesis 27 and 29.

Second, responses to recent Musings suggest that the riddles have been a *little too easy*. I have decided, therefore, to pose a more difficult challenge this week.

So, put on your thinking caps and have a go at this.

'My father was a bad man; the love of money was his downfall.

My grandfather was made of different stuff. He was a very good man, totally free from the love of money. Nobody could point a finger at him, even when challenged to do so.

Speaking about myself, I was appointed to a very responsible position, answering directly to the king. God blessed me with a large family (seventeen children in all), who assisted me in fulfilling the role I had been given.

Ironically, although my remit (on a very important day in the life of the nation) specifically mentioned 'joy', my name is associated with probably the saddest song in the Bible'.

'Well, who am I?'

Third, an anniversary. This coming Thursday marks the anniversary of the death of William Wilberforce on 29th July 1833, just one month short of his 74th birthday.

I hardly need to remind you that William Wilberforce devoted his life to the emancipation of slaves.

On 22nd July 1833, a week before he died, Mr Wilberforce heard that the Bill to free all slaves in the British colonies had passed its second reading in the House of Commons. 'Thank God', he said, 'that I should have lived to witness a day in which England is willing to give twenty millions sterling for the Abolition of Slavery'. A month after his death, the Bill became law, receiving Royal Assent on 28th August, and the Act came into force the following year, on 1st August 1834.

Mr Wilberforce died in London, but he spent several months in Bath before his death. While there, on 11th July, 'A friend who happened to be passing through Bath ... paid him a visit which he thus describes.

"I found the veteran Christian reclining on a sofa, with his feet wrapped in flannel ... he received me with the warmest marks of affection, and seemed to be delighted by the unexpected arrival of an old friend ... I freely spoke to him of the good and glorious things, which, as I believed, assuredly awaited him in the kingdom of rest and peace ...

"With regard to myself, [Mr Wilberforce said] I have nothing whatever to urge but the poor publican's plea, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

'These words were expressed with peculiar feeling and emphasis, and have since called to my remembrance **his own definition of the word "mercy" – "kindness to those that deserve punishment."**

(Source: Robert Isaac Wilberforce and Samuel Wilberforce, 'The Life of William Wilberforce' (1839), Volume 3, pages 523-525.)

Fourth, [the attached document for this week focuses on the glorious person of our Lord Jesus](#). Happy reading.

Yours in our Lord Jesus,

Malcolm

(i) Scripture.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,
'I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His name ...

At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them".

You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? ...

You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode ... You will bring them in'.

Exodus 15. 1-17 (*English Standard Version*)