

## Daily Devotion For September 9, 2022

Yesterday the world mourned the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen had a strong Christian faith that has been evident throughout her life in her words and actions. As Queen, she assumed the formal role as 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

As she assumed the role of Queen, she said, "Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.'

The theme of service ran throughout her long reign. She said that she had been inspired by the sacrificial life of Jesus Christ and quoted Mark 10:45 "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." She also said, "For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life."

Her most favorite bible story was "The Good Samaritan" that Pastor Troy Gardner shared with us a few weeks ago. She said, the story 'reminds us of our duty to our neighbor. We should try to follow Christ's clear instruction at the end of that story: "Go and do likewise".'

In 1989 she said, 'Many of you will have heard the story of the Good Samaritan, and of how Christ answered the question (from a clever lawyer who was trying to catch him out) "who is my neighbor?".

"Jesus told of the traveler who was mugged and left injured on the roadside where several important people saw him, and passed by without stopping to help. His neighbor was the man who did stop, cared for him, and made sure he was being well looked after before he resumed his own journey.

'It's not very difficult to apply that story to our own times and to work out that our neighbors are those of our friends, or complete strangers, who need a helping hand. Do you think they might also be some of the living species threatened by spoiled rivers, or some of the children in places like Ethiopia and Sudan who don't have enough to eat? ... it would be splendid to think that in the last years of the twentieth century Christ's message about loving our neighbors as ourselves might at last be heeded.'

**Thought For Today:** How are you serving your neighbor? What legacy of faith are you leaving?

**Today's Prayer Focus:** Prayers for the Queens family and the people of the United Kingdom as they mourn the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. Continued prayers for Bob McIntyre and Alan Duran. Deo Volente.