

Thought for the Day: 18th May 2020
from Tony Whatmough
Luke 6: 37-38



‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’

But, but, but.....! Sadly we judge all the time, and that’s inevitable. Clergy have regular ministerial reviews, if you’re employed, you will have work assessments, and if you’re an employer you will write references for people. Even children at school have SATS and regular assessments, and in normal times, university students will be preparing for their finals, and receiving grades. And that’s not to mention people who serve as judges, or those called to jury service.

But it has often been pointed out that Jesus liked to make dramatic points, and perhaps this is one of them.

Yes we do have to judge and assess, and Jesus did so as well in his ministry, but he personally stood by the judgements he made. ‘Do not judge and you will not be judged.’ But of course, he did judge and he was judged, but in dying on the cross he took upon himself the judgement of the world: he paid the price of judgement, so that we ourselves would not be judged and condemned.

Today is Rogation tide. The word rogation means simply to ask.

Let us ask at this time that in our judging we may be fair and honest, that the judgements and assessments that we need to make may be for the building up of our relationships and communities, especially at this time when so much is at risk.

Lord, we ask that we may be merciful to each other, as you are merciful to us.