

Hiding!

Psalm 77; Genesis 32⁹⁻³⁰; Mark 7¹⁻²³

Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban.

[Mark 7¹¹]

You know that I always look for the link between the readings – and the readings for this evening are worth of Boris Johnson and his chums.

- ✘ Jacob is making his way back toward Esau, the brother whom he defrauded out of his birth right (assisted by his mother) over a plate of lentils. He says to God, **deliver me from the hand of my brother**, certain that he will **come and kill us all**.

He sends his flocks, his servants, his wives and his children all as shields. He might have found a way to shield himself from his brother, but he still ends up having to struggle directly with God, who put his hip out of joint.

- ✘ In all the debate about what is and is not allowed, effectively how little do I have to do to be on God's right side, Jesus notes that **this people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me**.

He then, referring to the commandment to honour your parents, brings up the subject of **Corban**. This was a way of protecting your money from tax, or people you owed money to, by saying that you had promised it to God. The very notion that you could but choose not to help your parents isn't supported by Jesus.

He speaks about how what goes into a person cannot defile them – it is what comes out of them.

How tempting it is to try and hide, to get off with the most we can and to look after ourselves. It simply isn't Christian. As society is looking for moral leadership and integrity, Christians have a duty to be seen to be the people God calls us to be.