



# Opening Meditation by Bishop Philip Huggins

As we settle: Jesus Prayer chant :

<https://youtu.be/hpu-3EDa-xw>

## ***Readings...***

### ***1 Kings 19:11-13***

Elijah at Horeb, Listening for the 'silent music of God'.

### ***Luke 18:35-43***

Jesus, on the way to Jericho, stops , listens and helps when the person in need cries  
"Jesus have mercy on me".

# ***Listening, Reflecting and Acting....***

Two Reflections for our Transformative work

...With a cosmic perspective

.....With a spiritual practice

With prayers for all who gather in  
Brisbane for our Conference and with  
prayers for all whom we carry in our  
hearts,

Gifted with life on this tiny planet in a  
vast universe, we gather gratefully,  
for this crucial Conference.

Here on our planet, one of some 100-200 billion in our galaxy alone, the Milky Way. Our galaxy, one of at least 200 billion galaxies, in our vast universe of God's creating....

Let me offer mediation, based on these readings.

## **I KINGS 19:11-13**

Elijah is at Horeb.

We can imagine the scene.

- After the wind

-After the earthquakes, after this and that.

There is a still, small voice, in the sheer silence.

When Elijah hears it, the Holy Presence, he wraps his face in his mantle and goes out “and stood at the entrance of the cave”.

Then there comes a voice to him.as he stands there in holy awe.

Elijah’s context is like our own.

Elijah has been at a crisis time physically, vocationally, spiritually.

He is a bit down on himself.



Somewhat anxious about the future...

We who are from Church have felt this, feel all this and more.

As we gather ourselves to continue the climb needed so that the Royal Commission Recommendations are entirely fulfilled.

Like Elijah, we seek to be attentive to the divine presence and guidance.

Like Elijah, we listen for a sound so quiet it might be missed...

...We have learned a little about listening better to voices we once did not hear, as an Institution. With tragic consequences...

Even though Jesus had made it clear, in Matthew 25, that what we do or don't do for the most vulnerable, we do or don't do to Him.

Such is Jesus sacrificial love for the most vulnerable, like children.

After Elijah had heard the “silent music of God (in St John of the Cross’ beautiful phrase), his life changed radically.

After this, he lived with more humility, less zealotry and power - mongering..

There is a connection here too, for our Australian Church. One that might emerge from this time, humbler, less zealous in any self-serving way.

So, as we gather, here in Brisbane for this crucial Conference:

\*We pray to listen well, in the divine presence and in each other's presence.

\*With a holy awe as regards our responsibility to transform church culture.

...As disciples of Jesus, we are always learning how to be better followers so we can be better leaders.

## **LUKE 18:35-43**

Jesus, on the way to Jericho, in Luke 18: 35-43, stops, listens; acts with compassion, having made sure no one can prevent Him hearing what a vulnerable soul wants to share with Him.

His Transformative leadership is our model.

This text was also seminal for the early Churches recognition of that phrase, “Jesus have mercy”.

It soon became embedded in our liturgies...The ‘Kyrie Eleison’ cry before our Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Soon, in Holy Spirit, also came the recognition of the power and beauty in Jesus Name and that, as He promised, there is connection between saying the Name and

experiencing His holy presence.

Hence too, the Jesus Prayer tradition, as spiritual practice. “Prayer of the Heart”.

So that, in Spirit, with self-awareness, we can better choose what we think about, knowing how this shapes our words and actions .Knowing, really knowing, that the pattern of our thinking and then our words and actions, over time, defines our character and destiny.



This matter is crucial to our  
Transforming of Culture.

Spiritual Practice, recognising we are  
beings of body, mind and spirit...

So, for a while now, let us pray “Jesus  
have mercy”:

\* Making the connection to Elijah  
wrapped in his mantle, listening for  
the still, small voice, awed by holy  
presence.

\* Making the connection to that dear soul outside Jericho and to all the vulnerable ones who need us here to “Listen, Reflect and Act” in ways full of choices full of beauty, truth and kindness.

As we do so, there will come a transformation of culture.

AMEN.

MAY IT BE SO.

Bishop Philip Huggins