

Thought for the Day 17th April - John Reed

Read Mathew 6:25-34

The other day I was sorting out an old drawer. This drawer is in an old sideboard that Janine and I inherited from her grandparents over 30 years ago. We stripped it down and re-finished it, and it has come with us on every move since then. It has one drawer, into which we have over the years shoved (and I use the word advisedly) all those bits and pieces that we don't know what to do with. It recently got to the point where it wouldn't shut because it was so full, so it was time for a clean-out. And Riley was delighted when I pulled out various random coins, which he happily collected and deposited in his moneybox.

One of them, however, didn't go into the piggybank. This was an old coin. To be precise, a 1950 Australian penny. Just how and when it got there, I don't know. I have a vague feeling at some point over the years we found it while digging in the garden and thinking it was interesting, but not knowing what to do with it, shoved it in the drawer. So Riley and I decided to find out what this old coin was worth. We looked it up on the internet and, given the condition it is in, it is worth slightly less than a dollar. We were a bit disappointed that it wasn't a rare treasure that was going to help pay off all our debts. So now it is sitting on my desk. It may well end up back in the drawer!

Do you have an old drawer, or box, or somewhere you shove all those interesting things that you don't know what to do with? Will your children, or grandchildren, one day sort through it all and wonder why you bothered keeping all these useless things?

Sometimes it may feel like we are like those worthless curiosities, shoved in the back of God's novelty drawer and forgotten. But that is not the case at all. We are, according to Jesus (verse 26; see also Mathew 10:31) much more precious to God than the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. And if he cares for them, and provides for them, *how much more* does he care for us? He knows us intimately (Psalm 139). And cares for us deeply, and provides for us at great personal expense (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).

We may not have great importance or value to many in this world. But to God, we are priceless. As Paul says (1 Corinthians 1:26-31):

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."