

We The People
Program 291 April 30, 2018
We the People 291 A Candle in the Wind



Good Day to you. A week ago I rose early to a beautiful morning and watched the sun rise and revelled in the sweet sounds of a new day. My little family of butcher birds arrived in the back yard for breakfast before their busy day began, while my long standing magpie couple 'Search and Rescue' lobbed in the front yard for their rations and to sing in the new morning. The autumn air was cool and fresh and such a welcome change from summer's relentless heat. I felt at peace as the harsh reality of the world receded amid the song of the birds. These are the moments you feel alive and full of purpose and faith returns that the world is beautiful and can be a better place.

Unfortunately the world is far removed from this peaceful moment. In fact it seems mankind goes out of its way to fight and is preoccupied, even possessed with conflict, anger and greed. We live our lives as though there is no death and life will go on for a thousand years but it doesn't. Why then do so many place so much store in acquiring earthly wealth to the exclusion of the soul and at the expense of others. In that fleeting moment when reality bites, parading a convenient baptism as a new beginning is shallow, without the real changes which must be made. None of us are without fault but some don't see their own reflection and the truly wretched lives they lead. It would be easy to give up or in loneliness to not reach out to others for kindness and help but in contrast so many wonderful people spend their limited time, their fragile days, caring for others and the earth's creatures which are just as entitled to life as we are. Our lives are always confronted by a fork in the road and the best path is always the narrow way and at least at first glance, less inviting. We choose to be strong or elect to be weak and then wear the consequences.

In Shakespeare's Macbeth in the fifth scene of Act 5 Macbeth ponders life as an anxious madness takes its place. It's a dark moment as he says.....

*Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.*

Poor old Macbeth was conflicted and saw no hope or purpose in life but was driven by his own desires to be King. Now this reminds me so much of many in life we read about daily not just on the Gold Coast or in Australia but across the world. So many driven by artificial desires and will kill for what they want. Life is far more than a flickering candle in the wind whose shadows remain only while the flame burns. I have no doubt the current CCC investigations on the Gold Coast will yield up a Macbeth or two and show yet again how some will do anything for power and apparent wealth. It's the same with the royal commission into banking as the boil is lanced. The Chinese government feign a corrupted democracy while men in India hurl acid in the faces of women. Armed to the teeth the USA attempts to bomb the world into peace while the various dictators around the globe siphon off their country's wealth like pumping oil into their bank accounts. It's not a pretty picture but here's the rub..... some lives have hope as the candle flickers. Some lives are as beautiful as the magpies' song and that's because of the choices made. For my part I have faith in tomorrow because of my Christianity and the sure and certain knowledge that my own fragile conflicted life has a higher purpose. My strong advice is to take up the challenge, that it's quite possible even desirable to be a better person, so reach out to others today and make a start and fight the good fight.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley