

Another Day

Biblical reflections for busy teachers



Kindness

When you stop and step aside from the pressures of life in the classroom and consider for a moment who God is and what He is like, what do you think? If I were to ask you, "What does God delight in?" what would be your answer?

I recently came upon these verses from Jeremiah Chapter 9:

"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on the earth, for in these I delight."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

In them we see a God who delights in exercising kindness, justice and righteousness on the earth.

On reading the words again I was struck by the fact that God delights in exercising kindness. If I had to pick things that God delighted in, I probably could have picked justice and righteousness, but would I have picked kindness?

That got me thinking that, as I know and understand God better, as I seek to serve Him and respond to His call, do I exercise kindness to those around me; do I delight in it? When I am teaching, do I delight in showing kindness to my pupils? What about my colleagues or that awkward set of parents? Do I exercise kindness towards them too?

If we know and understand God we too will seek to exercise kindness, justice and righteousness upon the earth. At times this is challenging, but we do not do it alone; we have God's help and guidance.

Spare a moment today to pray for other Christian teachers and school leaders as they seek to reflect God's delight in kindness, justice and righteousness through their interactions with pupils, teaching staff, governors and parents. Pray that people may respond to the kindness shown to them and recognise that, at its root, is a God who loves and cares for all and who delights in exercising kindness.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:21-23