



A Reflection for Second Sunday of Trinity Readings - Galatians 5.1, 13-25 & Luke 9.51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

This passage does seem to indicate that Jesus had a sense that his time was short and it is at this moment that he sets his face to Jerusalem. Jesus sets his face like flint in his determination and purpose as he with the disciples make their way to the Holy city.

As a group they pass through a Samaritan village and the local reaction is the one that is to be expected. Samaritans and Jews are enemies and hate one another. The reception for this nomadic group is normal. The disciples resort to old ways of behaving and seek to punish the local villagers for their reaction to Jesus. Jesus questions them and asks how are they to respond out of love. Jesus rebukes the disciples and not the Samaritans.

As this group continue on their journey towards Jerusalem there were those along the roadside who said what they thought Jesus wanted to hear. In so doing this informed Jesus that their intentions were not virtuous. How many other itinerant preachers had these roadside wannabe's encountered that day and they had also said they would follow them too. Jesus saw right through them. In these encounters we see the stark reality in following, Jesus. To walk in the way of unconditional love. For love demands everything. There is no time to wait in case a better offer should come along. It has to be Jesus. That he is The Messiah.

This passage asks us to look at ourselves and to take a moment to consider who we are on this journey to Jerusalem. Like those who were hostile, the Samaritans? Like those who were more interested in their selfish desires and were just hedging their bets, those on the roadside? Or as a follower who believes that Jesus is The One, The Son of God? Who or what do we truly follow?

Thank you for reading and keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Night Prayer from Cartmel Vicarage is live streamed from 9.00pm week nights on Facebook.
Keep connected by going to the Cartmel Priory Facebook page.*

Image - Icon depicting the face of Jesus