



A Reflection for Second Sunday of Lent Readings - Romans 4.1-5, 13-17 & John 3.1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Ideed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

Nicodemus a leader of the Jews, a Pharisee, takes a risk by meeting with Jesus. They meet under the vale of darkness. They meet in secrecy to protect Nicodemus as his searching for answers has led him to go against the advice of institutional religion and to meet with Jesus in person. These two religious men who see the world in different ways are prepared to meet with one another. They are both prepared to take risks.

God does not just deal with this world, but deals with passionately, loving it and suffering for it. 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to it'. But this is not logic. This is passion. How else would God be willing to part with God's own son for the sake of us? Nor is this a result of reasoning. It is a risk. And passion always involves risk, does it not? But only in risking will there be new discoveries and exciting opportunities.

By Choan-Seng Song

As a community, let us be prepared to move forward, in what is a very different world to that of only 2 years ago and to do so with passion being prepared to take risks as we seek for the building of The Kingdom of God.

Thank you for reading.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Night Prayer from Cartmel Vicarage is available from 9.00pm week nights on Facebook.
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