

A Thought for Sunday 28th February

2nd Sunday of Lent

Reading Mark Chapter 8 verses 31 to the end

This passage marks the turning point in Jesus' ministry. He is now concerned in teaching the disciples about what is going to happen to him; his death and resurrection.

This passage occurs just after the disciples through Peter have declared that *Jesus is 'the Messiah, the Christ'* and yet Peter now rebukes Jesus when Jesus says he must suffer and be rejected.

So often we like Peter have a moment of inspiration and then we do something daft, which doesn't fit in with what we have just declared. Peter had admitted Jesus was the Messiah which would mean Jesus knew what he was doing, knew what the future would bring. It shows us that Peter's understanding of what the Messiah was like was faulty, was limited. It is not surprising as, why should the Messiah suffer? If he was the Messiah he should be able to stop the pain and anguish. Jesus could have stopped all the pain he was going to suffer but he didn't because there was a greater goal.

We like Peter expect God to do things in a particular way but He does not, that can be because we do not see the whole picture, we may not know all the consequences to an action, we may have missed an even better outcome. By expecting God to work as a human we limit him, we then limit our expectations of what he can do. Mary showed us that with Jesus' first miracle of turning the water into wine. Jesus told her *my time has not come*, but she told everyone to do as Jesus said, she didn't know how he would act but she expected him to help and he did in an abundant way. That is faith-expecting God to care and help; trusting in God.

We need to allow God to work His way, that is how we deny ourselves, trusting that God will not let us down, not jumping in to try and make the action happen, like Abraham did with Hagar but accepting the waiting; waiting for God to act. God's time is not ours, He can take what seems like a person's lifetime to act, an example of this is Simeon and Anna who, in their old age, saw the promised Messiah, Jesus as a baby.

God often acts at the last moment, like with Abraham when he was to sacrifice Isaac, always remember if God has given you a job he will equip you to do it. So in those fearful moments trust God. I just pray that we will be ready when God wants us to act.

Each of us have a cross, things that take us away from our path with Christ. Things that muddy our expectations of what we are to do and when we need to do them.

How do we keep clear sight? By making sure that what we do lines up with God's purpose and that means talking to Him every day of our lives, in the highs and lows acknowledging that we are His. Through that God can do miracles both in and through our and other people's lives. Praise the LORD.

Remember God still believes in His world even when it behaves at its worst and God loved us while we were still sinners. He is a wonderful GOD.



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