

Re:Easter Blog – 22nd March

Recreation

For me the word ‘recreation’ has an entirely positive feel to it! As a very active child I always wanted the chance to play and let off steam, even though it took me years to learn that one of my favourite places to do this was the ‘Rec’ and not the ‘Wreck’! (Anyone under 55 may not know that most parks used to be called recreation grounds). But recreation always conjured up for me activities of joyful physical expression – and of refreshing and invigorating change!

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD’s renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.” Isaiah 55: 12-13

That first verse captures for me the exuberant praise of God’s creation responding to his wonderful way of salvation. I love the song derived from that verse – the one that we sing faster on each repetition – as we reach a temporarily exhausted crescendo of praise.

And that second verse brings out for me another aspect of recreation- new or renewed growth – with what comes next being so much better than what was before: juniper rather than thorns, myrtle instead of briars. While I don’t know what exactly juniper or myrtle are, I know by faith that they are wonderful when they replace the thorns – which is perhaps like that sense when we get a glimpse of God’s renewed future over against the struggles we face in this world.

Finally, recreation leads on to joyful praise. You may not think of yourself as a ‘bursting into song’ sort of person and yet, as C S Lewis discovered, *“the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation.”* Praise isn’t for God’s benefit but rather it enables us to enter most completely into our re-creation.

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/praise-the-consummation-of-joy> is definitely worth a read as a summary of what C S Lewis learned.

Prayer

Take some time to give thanks with a grateful heart for all the blessing the Lord has given to you. Praise him for all he has done for you. And all that lies ahead. Enjoy Him this week.

Action

Whatever you like to do for recreation, go and enjoy that and as you do ‘feel His pleasure’.