

Re:Easter Blog – 29th March

Reflection

In recent years it has become ‘fashionable’ to spend time in personal reflection. We are encouraged to be mindful and to become more aware of ourselves. 2 Cor 13:5 also encourages us to take time to “*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves*”.

But even before the events in Westminster last Wednesday I had had it in mind that perhaps the focus of our reflection in this particular blog shouldn’t just be about ourselves – some of our previous blogs have been there – but upon our city and our world.

We are now over half-way through our Lent journey towards Easter so perhaps we can imagine Jesus walking towards Jerusalem and knowing what lies ahead for him. He comes over the last hill before the city and he sees Jerusalem laid out before him on the next set of hills. As Jesus approached his city he wasn’t just taken up with the crowds or thinking about his next teaching opportunity for the disciples, or even of the imminent horror that he would shortly be going through, but he reflects upon God’s purposes for and love for Jerusalem and he is deeply moved.

As Luke 19:41-42 tells us, “*As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes”*. And on an earlier visit to the city (Luke 13:34) he cries “*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.*”

It is easy to live inside a city like London and yet never reflect upon how God sees the city. It is easy to be in our own self-focused bubble of life and fail to see & feel what is happening in the world God has made. The world we live in is so beautiful and so damaged at the same time. Reflect upon our city or our world – and cry out to God for his justice and peace and salvation. Perhaps you could ‘insert’ the issue on your heart into the Psalm 13 lament prayer below.

If you would like to think some more about the place of lament you may find this article helpful
http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org/NewsArchive_page/10LentProgramme/Revd%20Paul%20Erskine.pdf

Prayers

Almighty God, when tragedy strikes and confusion bewilders, hear our cry, and teach us that in all things you work for good with those who love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

“*How long, O Lord? Will you forget forever? How long will you hide your face? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will the enemy triumph ...? Look and answer, O Lord my God. Give light , or we will sleep in death; the enemy will say, ‘I have overcome them.’ And my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me.”* (Ps 13)

Action

As you reflect upon our world, is there some practical action you could take this week to take a stand against the heart-ache or injustice you can see? Here are a few ideas that might help you think what a suitable action for you might be:-

- Take a few minutes to have a chat with the Big Issue seller when you buy the magazine
- Visit someone who is lonely and take them a very simple gift too
- Volunteer to pick up litter in Joel Street on the morning of Saturday 8th April with the Northwood Hills Residents Association (ask Chris R for more details)
- Sign a petition against an injustice that is on your mind – for example, the Christian Aid site is campaigning on issues including Climate Change, Tax Injustice and Refugees
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns>
- Make sure you only buy fresh food produce from Britain for the coming week.
- Write to your MP to thank them for their work on behalf of the constituency and to assure them that you will pray for them