

May Reflection - Post Lent

Once they found him, once they were called, the disciples stayed with Jesus. He formed them, stayed with them, led them, taught them. He told them to follow him- to learn from him, and then He sent them out.

My love story with God began at the dawn of time, but it took centuries of revelation for humanity to come to understand it, or, at least, to catch glimpses of it. The Old Testament is full of accounts of people who encountered God in all sorts of settings and found their lives transformed; Abraham, taken out to look at stars, Moses, enchanted by a burning bush, and the Hebrew people drawn out of slavery into a Promised Land. Saul was blind to what he was doing in persecuting Christians, Jesus renewed his sight in showing him the Truth. Peter misjudged his capabilities and learned to rely on Jesus' love alone.

For most Catholics, Lent is a penitential Season and it is right to have a time when I take time and truth to reflect on my life and identify the persistent faults and failings that stop me being the person/people God created us to be and try to deal with them. There is a danger here, though; we can become so keen to identify our sins that we turn our focus on ourselves, almost, if we are honest, to the exclusion of allowing God to speak allowing God to forgive.

Now that Lent is over, hopefully we won't forget what we noted. Hopefully, I will have them written in my journal so I can remind myself and see what progress I am making.

Am I feeling His Joy, His love? Am I talking to Him each day? Am I continually choosing? Am I staying in the moment?

How well do I listen to my call, God has a plan for each of us, **John 15: 16**, "you did not choose me, I chose you, to go and bear much fruit." What is my call? Who motivated me to begin? Is it still motivating me? What/who motivates me now? What is it that I am looking for? Am I Committing to it, seeking it, giving my free, yes?

Although they lived in very different times and places, the yearnings of the hearts of the Jews and early Christians, were pretty much the same as ours, and they found their fulfilment in God's love and mercy, shown repeatedly, over thousands of years. The most amazing encounters with God did not make the people perfect, nor anything like perfect, but God's love supported and sustained them through all sorts of trials and difficulties.

We live because God loves us. God knows that we fail and still He loves us. God knows that we keep doing the same things that we wish we didn't and God loves us. God knows that we fail repeatedly to do the good things we know we really want to and God loves us. There really is nothing we can do or not do to separate ourselves from the love of God! Only God is perfect (see St Paul on this in **Romans 8: 35 - 39**).

After Jesus died, the Apostles and Disciples remembered, kept together, tried to work out what had happened and what it meant. This is our time to reflect, to expect, move on taking all my thoughts and decisions with me. Its our time to experience the Lord alive and around me, calling us on, embrace my call and take Him with us on our journey.

Where was I before? Where am I now? Where would I long to be? How can I get there and who will walk alongside me?

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