

HOMILY 16TH MAY 2021- FOLLOWING OUR FAITH JOURNEY TODAY

READING JOHN 17. 6-19

I wonder if you like watching long running TV dramas or plays? If you do, then you will know that both of them need a Producer, a Director and Actors to make them work. They also need a plot and an audience to watch them.

The same can be said our faith journey. It also needs a Producer, a Director, a Plot and an audience (its followers) to put it into effect.

It could be said that God the Father is the Director and Producer of our Faith Journey. It could also be said that Jesus came into what we call '*time*' to give birth to our faith journey and to give flesh to it and so bring it to life just as actors bring a TV drama or play to life.

And the hallmark of the plot of our faith journey is that God the Father wants all things to be here on earth as they are in the heavenly places.

And God the Father also wants his humanity to play its part in bringing about his Kingdom here on earth as it is in the heavenly places too. However, no part of God's humanity is being forced to do this.

The plots of all TV dramas and plays remain the same. And the same is true of our faith journey except that new ways always need to be found to tell its story.

All who have watched or seen a successful TV drama or a play will want to tell others about it saying to them that the drama or play is something they need to see. In the same way, all who follow the Christian faith journey have something to do for it. Doing nothing for our faith journey is not an option.

It is also the case that all TV dramas and plays have key words and phrases that bring them to life.

In the same way, there are key words and phrases in the Christian faith journey and we come across two of them in our Reading – '*light*' and '*truth*'.

Jesus uses them in our reading as a part of his instructions to his disciples so that they (and so now us) can move his story on.

As followers of Christ, we need to understand that the '*light*' of our faith journey can speak into the darkness of our times. An old saying is that '*a Candle says to the darkness at midnight- I beg to differ*'.

We as followers of Christ always have to be aware of situations where need to say '*We beg to differ*'.

The word '*truth*' is harder to define. Perhaps it means that the true life is a life that is lived close to God and that this is how God wants his humanity to live.

Today's Gospel comes from St John's Gospel. The opening of the Gospel contains its famous Prologue and that Prologue also talks about '*light*' and '*truth*'.

The Prologue to John's Gospel is the key to understanding our Reading today and also the whole of the Gospel and it contains these words.

But to all who did receive Him, to those who have yielded to Him their allegiance, He gave the right to become children of God, not born of any human stock, or by the fleshly desire of a human father, but offspring of God himself.

As you study those words and spend time with them and then with all of John's Gospel, you will find much '*light*' and '*truth*'.

Just as spending time seeing again a much loved play and TV drama leads us to a better understanding of them, so will spending more time with our faith journey help us to better understand it and what it is asking of us today.

To help us do this here is a meditation by David Adam

Awaken me Lord, to your light
Open my eyes to your presence.
Awaken me Lord, to your love
Open my heart to your indwelling
Awaken me, Lord to your life
Open my mind to your abiding
Awaken me, Lord to your purpose
Open my will to your guiding.

*Jonathan Slater
Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)
St Giles Church Bramhope*