

Mid-week Reflection for week commencing 6th June 2021.

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 9:1-45

Luke is in no way selling discipleship cheap! He pulls no punches as he provides clear instruction for the twelve as they were sent out by Jesus. The list of what they should take was very short, nothing. When we look at what we take with us when we travel it is a different approach. We prepare for any and every eventuality throwing in the 'kitchen sink'. Jesus is not blind to their needs but asks them to trust that God will provide for them through others.

The verses that follow speak of the importance of caring for those who want to know more about Jesus (Lk 9:9-17), the importance of each person believing for themselves (Lk 9:20), the value of knowing Jesus compared to accumulating wealth (Lk 9:25). Luke goes on to speak of the reassurance of being with Jesus on the mountain top and then the challenge of holding faith and confidence in God's power in ministering to the needs of the people.

Then there is the story of Barnabas (Acts 11:19-30) reminding us that discipleship is about learning to work with others, building on the past and taking things forward together.

Let us pray

Lord, we thank you for who you are and your closeness to us. Help us to know when to speak of what you have revealed to us and when to keep things to ourselves.

We are sorry that we do not always recognise just how close you are, understand what you say or accept what you give to us through others. Forgive us we pray.

Help us like Barnabas to be ready to go where you send, to work with others in encouraging faith and by sharing what you have given us help those in need. Amen.

Meditation

What do you regard as the essentials of life?

Would you have given up your loaves and fishes if asked? What is God asking you to share?

When Jesus asks "Who do you say I am?"
What do you reply?

