

Thoughts from the Prayer Corner No 9

In our final Wednesday Communion before this latest Lockdown, Laurence played us a meditation based on the passage at the bottom of the page. We were invited to get into the boat and go out into the lake with the Disciples, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak us as we did so.

It would have been lovely to climb into the boat, watch the Disciples at work as they readied the boat to sail, watched the storm as it built up over the water, dark ominous clouds gathering. Maybe I wouldn't have wanted to experience the fear and anxiety as the boat rocked around and could possibly sink! But, to see Jesus walking on the water and coming towards us, out of the early morning sun, or to see Peter taking that step of faith in climbing out of the boat and joining him, and, to experience such a range of differing emotions, well, that really would have been something else.

Not for me, on this occasion.

So, where was I?

I have no idea whether the shoreline is sandy or not, but in my imagination, it looked similar, to the picture of the beach at Eastbourne, pictured below.



Full of a finer grade of shingle!

The boat was not sitting out on the water but beached into the shale. It took all of us together to move it out into the water. It was hard physical work, eventually it floated freely. I watched as the Disciples clambered aboard, setting sail for the middle of the lake. The crowds had gone, Jesus too.

By now, the boat was too far out of sight to be able to distinguish individual Disciples as they were becoming like silhouettes against the change in the colour of the sky in the distance.

Alone, but not lonely, I glanced around me. As I looked down, I could see the scars in the shingle, the rut made by pushing the boat forward. In time it would fade away, the track becoming invisible. As I watched the water lapping over the stones, they were refreshed and cleansed together. When the force of the water moves the stones, they are moved together. When the water recedes and the sun dries them out, they are dried out together. When the wind blows with force only the smaller stones will move but they move together. The larger stones will not be moved, but they are not moved together. When some stones are moved by foreign influences, to a new location, they move together, but their destinations may be different.

If we were one of those stones which one would we be?

Would we feel tossed around as circumstances dictate or rooted into the terrain beneath us?

Lockdown may spur us on to try new things within its limitations, or we may be asked to patiently wait. Either way, Emmanuel, God is with us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you have the time, do try reading the passage through and allowing your imagination to flow. You might be surprised at what the Holy Spirit will reveal to you as you give Him some time.

As always, take care

Margaret

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."