

St James News: Thought for the day – Friday 17 July, 2020

A 'stone' experience – Maggie Marshall

Poem, 'Like a Stone' by Revd David Clowes

Lord, I am like a stone, a pebble on a beach.

I have been battered by the waves of stress, frustration and responsibility;
Caressed by the gentleness of the hand upon my shoulder, the quiet word of
reassurance in my ear, the deep, deep trust of a friend.

Lord, I am like a stone, a pebble on the beach of life.

Sometimes I feel so alone, so far from the safety of the shore of love and
understanding and genuine concern.

Yet, strangely I am always aware of your presence.

Even in the darkest times

I know you are holding even me in the palm of your hand.

Lord, I am like a stone, a pebble on the beach – just one among so many.

How could anyone – how could you – ever remember me?

All that I have faced has forced me to wear this smooth, rounded and apparently
untroubled surface that protects me and gives me a false sense of security – and
keeps me alone with just me.

But you know me, Lord;

You know this pebble is fragile, weak and hurting.

This pebble can be broken by an uncaring word, a thoughtless action, or by unmet
needs of touch, holding, loving.

Lord, I am like a stone, a pebble on a beach.

But this is your beach, and I am your stone – though there are times when even
you must wonder at the price Christ paid for me!

Perhaps you were looking for a pearl – and all you now hold is a stone of my life.

But hold me Lord, go on holding me.

Treasure me beyond the value given to me by the world.

Only in your hand can I be healed, made whole;

Only in your hand can this stone become like soft, supple clay,

To be shaped and moulded by nail – printed hands.

Lord, I am like a stone;
Make me a pebble on your beach of eternal life.
Then hold me, go on holding and using me,
For the glory of your name. Amen.

I wonder if we have felt like this during Lockdown. We have all had different experiences, having to keep in contact when we could through different channels and not the usual face to face. Perhaps we have become more rounded 'pebbles' during this time. Spending time with God, joining in services on Zoom – that started as a 'stone' experience moving to smoother 'pebbles' as we got used to it, learning more about each other through Coffee Mornings – never been to one on line before!!

As the meditation reminds us God is there in all situations and He's always there to listen to us.

Psalm 18: 2

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God is my rock and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.