

Thought for the Day – Monday 19th February 2024

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

The cost of a free gift

We had a very good start to our Lent course last night on Modern Slavery. We looked at how we are bombarded by many different voices competing for our attention, and in the midst of these voices, criminals operate. They offer promises of security, status, money, community and love to those who are vulnerable and desperate. Indeed it all seems too good to be true. Because it is. Sadly, many people find them selves trapped in modern slavery, unable to free themselves.

We contrasted their call to the call of Christ. He also offers us very good things. Reconnection to God, eternal life, forgiveness, a new direction, a family of fellow believers, peace of mind, peace of heart and a purpose for living. However, He is also clear that there is a Great Cost. The gifts He gives to us are free, that is why they are gifts, but it cost Him His life and His relationship with his heavenly Father on the cross. To follow Jesus, incurs a cost to us too. His ways are often unpopular, even foolish sometimes in the world's eyes. We note the recent attacks on the Archbishop of Canterbury and the CofE on the issue of assisting Asylum seekers. It is hard to keep our identity as a beloved child of God, the temptation to seek it elsewhere can be over whelming. It is hard to resist temptation sometimes or to resist the easy way of compromise. We often fall down along the way.

Lent is a time to focus on the disciplines of following Jesus. By cutting out excesses, making space to commune with God, feeling the 'pain' or at least uncomfortability of a modest lifestyle, as we seek to find our enrichment and contentment not by feeding on bread alone but by every word of God, as a beloved child of God. It's a time to take an honest look at our selves and to turn away from those things that hold us back.

In all of this, just as She helped Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us too.

BIBLE VERSES:

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

- Galatians 5:1