

Thought for the day – Monday 25th March 2024

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

We had a good discussion last night at the Lent Group, as to what being a disciple meant to us. There were lots of good suggestions. The most common term was following Jesus.

For Jesus disciples, to follow him, meant, both living as He taught them to, but also, when Jesus was still with them on earth, physically, being where he was. What set them apart from the others who were interested, was that they never left his side, except for a time, right at the end. They showed great courage before then, sticking by him when others left (John 6:67-69), going with him into dangerous places (John 11:16). It is because they stuck by him, that they were given insights to the most profound truths about life. It is this being by his side, that shaped them, and transformed them, the fruit of which we see after Jesus death and resurrection.

Holy Week, is an opportunity for us, to journey with Jesus. Easter is not just Easter Sunday, or even Good Friday added to it. There is a sequence of events, starting yesterday with Palm Sunday, where great crowds came out to hail Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As the week progresses, we see that their hopes and dreams were at add odds with Jesus', and they are ripe for manipulation by the powerful who are threatened by Jesus. They will turn on him, but his friends will stick with him as best as they could, sometimes closely, sometimes at a distance, sometimes falling asleep exhausted by the sorrow of it all, sometimes denying knowing him...but always coming back to Jesus. Even the one who betrayed him, showed remorse (Matthew 27:3)

At a very busy time for many of us, may we make some time to follow Jesus this holy week, as best we can, and allow those momentous events to shape us, encourage us, challenge us and inspire us.

BIBLE VERSE:

9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
- Matthew 21:9