

The dog - a thought

- Revd John Marshall

At the centre of our East window lies a dog, some sort of whippet or greyhound. When Maggie and I were visiting a lavender farm in Norfolk, we saw a dog just like it, under a table.

The dog is lying under the table as Jesus and two disciples are breaking bread together at Emmaus, a very vivid resurrection story, but why is the dog there?

Mark tells us the story of a Greek woman from Syro-Phoenicia,

Who comes to Jesus for help. She begs Jesus to heal her daughter. Jesus says something we may think strange.

“First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “but even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

Then he told her, “For such a reply, your daughter is healed.” She went home and found her daughter well.

This concept comes into our communion service, in the words of the prayer before communion, “We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table, But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.”

The dog in some way represents us.



Bible Reading: Luke 24:13-35 - you can find it here
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NIV>

Song: Before the throne of God above - you can listen to it here
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LULK2nZ6sCc>

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin

Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God