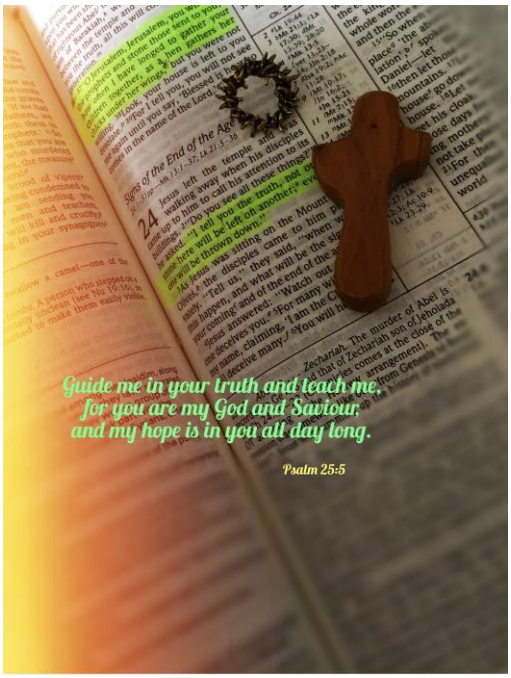
QUARANTINE REFLECTION 7 - Holy Tuesday

“A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.” - John 13: 34-35

You would have to be a pretty spectacular person if you manage to tread life’s paths and not slip off the edge occasionally.
None of us are perfect, we all make mistakes now and again but we as a general rule try to do the very best we can as we weave through our journey of life. We try our best to not intentionally cause upset and to live a kind and just life. However life in general throws up the odd challenge and situation where we sometime make the wrong decision or react in a way that if we had time over again we would behave differently.
There have been a lot of reports in the media of what we should have or could have done to be in a better situation with this virus. There have been many comparisons with other countries and leaders, but I think we have to believe that whatever your political leanings that decisions have been made in consultation with experts and that all are doing the best they can with the information they currently hold.
We have been issued with sets of instructions to enable us to stay safe and to keep others safe, for some following those instructions will be a bit of a challenge, for those of us who question almost everything it can be difficult to just trust and obey.

Jesus upset and angered the temple authorities when he questioned the morality of their behaviour over the trading in the temple courts and their outwardly behaviour compared to the reality, so you would think he lie low for a bit but no, he goes back to the temple to talk to them at length and the priests and the lawmakers they didn’t give Jesus an easy ride. They questioned him and he replied with equally challenging answers. He challenged their piousness and he warned his disciples of the dangers of living in the truth. Jesus clarified that our place in heaven wouldn’t be because we say our prayers or read our scripture whilst important what is also important, will be how we live our life. If we are living kindly and helping those who are hungry and in need, that might be helping people or being kind to those we don’t really want to like or be nice to. Jesus had much to say in the temple that day but was calling out the hypocrisy of people who were pretending to be good but were really living a very contradictory life.

It can be difficult to be good all of the time and to not make mistakes and we aren’t going to get it right all of the time. We can just try to do our very best to do the best we can and to not keep making the same mistakes over and over again.

Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can. - John Wesley - Rule of Life