

QUARANTINE REFLECTION 8 - Holy Wednesday / Spy Wednesday

I have been on verbal advice been isolating and shielding for four weeks now, I was told I ought to do so for twelve weeks and that confirmation in some form would arrive soon. Well confirmation in the form of two texts arrived yesterday and will be confirmed by letter, I expect that shall arrive in a day or two. Also on checking briefly this mornings emails there is an email from Sainsbury's telling me I've been prioritised for online shopping as I have been recognised as extremely vulnerable. Those words extremely vulnerable have been heard so often the past weeks and although I knew I fell into that category I don't think I truly considered myself such, I think I was going through the motions of an extremely vulnerable person feeling a little bit of a fraud as I don't think I look or feel terribly vulnerable.

At this point in Holy Week we consider the actions of Judas Iscariot and his betrayal of Jesus. To be frank we really don't know what happened with Jesus that day, perhaps the same as we do; the sun would have rose and he would have eaten, might have helped out with a few odd jobs, perhaps had a few meaningful conversations or maybe just casual chat with friends, a relaxing day with close friends. We just don't know as we have no record if he stayed with his friends or if he went off to be alone, his habit of withdrawing and praying of getting close to God makes me think he most certainly would have spent time alone reflecting and considering what was to happen. We do know that Judas met with the temple authorities who were plotting and had spies out and about to find ways to bring down Jesus. They had, had enough of Jesus and how they questioned them and their authority. Judas meeting with them with an offer to betray his friend must have had this hierarchy rubbing their hands with glee. We don't really know why Judas intentionally went to betray Jesus. Perhaps he expected great things from Jesus, maybe he wanted the warrior that would overthrow the Roman occupiers, maybe he was fed up following Jesus about but however he felt he did make a conscious decision to agree to betray his friend.

"What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?"

So they counted out for him thirty silver coins..

From them on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

(Matthew 26: 15b-16)

Perhaps Judas was expecting more from the religious authorities, maybe he expected some kind of protection from them after all once it is exposed that he is the one who betrayed their friend there would be many who would be baying for him. Was he, as he left the temple courts after that act of betrayal walking back to his friends feeling a bit nervous and afraid - was he vulnerable.

Jesus must have been beginning to feel vulnerable, he knew that the end for him was near. He knew that those he had trusted and depended upon were to let him down. He knew they still didn't fully understand that he was soon to die and I think all of those very human emotions of fear, sadness and betrayal would have made Jesus an extremely vulnerable person.

I felt really sad and low reading the texts and this morning's email and I expect I will feel a little low when I open the anticipated letter. That confirmation of my vulnerability is something that had to happen, but there is hope in there too. For if I comply and follow the advice there will be joy at the end of the twelve weeks or so. I know for sure that, that first walk beyond the front door will be exhilarating and I will revel in what will be a new found freedom with much joy in my heart.

We over the next few days will remember with sadness the last few days of Jesus but we know that the best is yet to come and the joy and exhilaration of Easter is waiting for us.

"Meet your fears with faith." - Max Lucado

For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God,

Romans 3:23

