

## QUARANTINE REFLECTION 6 - Holy Monday

Last night and this morning as I have scrolled through my social media feed there are huge numbers of posts, images and memes and some of them are really quite angry.

STAY AT HOME, STAY HOME THIS WEEKEND SO I CAN SEE MY FAMILY SOME TIME THIS YEAR, YOU CAN'T CURE STUPID - YOU CAN'T QUARANTINE IT EITHER!

These are only a few of the repeatable words that I have come across whilst looking through feeds. Many of them were accompanied with the angry emoji face alongside images of people filling parks and walking along promenades.

Most of the anger this morning that I have seen is directed at the Scottish chief medical officer Dr Calderwood.

Dr Calderwood has for the past two weeks been repeatedly reiterating at every podium moment for people to stay at home, to not make unnecessary journeys, pretty much what we here in England have been told. But Dr Calderwood for the past two weekends has driven with her family to her holiday home approximately forty miles from her usual address. There was much anger from all quarters but extreme anger from the two communities that she was travelling between.

Is that anger ever justified?

We would pretty remarkable people if we managed to weave our way through life without ever getting angry, sometimes it just feels necessary to go arghhhhhhh.

As Christians we are called to be Christlike, to be good and kind and to be like the Jesus of the old Sunday school song - gentle Jesus, meek and mild.

We often forget the human side of Jesus, the Jesus that feels the same emotions as you and me.

We are reminded of his humanity on Holy Monday when he enters the temple courts after quite a couple of mile journey of steep and stony ground from Bethany to Jerusalem. The temple authorities were doing the opposite of what they were meant to be doing rather than helping the poor and the weak and enabling them to enter in and to worship, they were extorting monies from the poor to line their own pockets. The temple was not primarily a place of prayer the greed and commercialism had become the priority of the temple authorities and it had altered the whole feel of the temple.

Jesus entered the temple courts angry and hurt at what his Father's house had become and he overturned the tables and the benches that they were trading temple coins and selling doves from. He stopped them from taking goods into the temple reminding them of some words from Isaiah - "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" he then proceeded to call them "a den of robbers".

Jesus had never been terribly popular with the Chief Priests and the Teachers of the law but this was the last straw for them and we are told in Mark's gospel that they began to look for ways to kill him.

Jesus was angry that despite several warnings from those who had gone before him as well as himself that the people were just going through the motions of their religious observance they weren't spiritually connecting with God.

I think it's easy for us to sit and judge others and to tut at our tv and 'like' the posts that decry all the people who are out and about when we are all being called to stay in. But someone had to take the images from the middle of the park or the people walking along the beachfront.

We are living in as I have said before and you all know quite difficult times and it's easy for us to jump on the bandwagon and decry the stupidity of people.

But I don't believe we can defend the indefensible ....

A lot of people will have just been out getting their daily exercise but there will have been people who were just doing stupid a bit like Dr Calderwood, someone who truly should have known better. It is when people like her do stupid it undermines the whole message that the general public is being given.

The message is bigger than the voice behind it. God is bigger than the people who were the voices of the temple.

Love one another with brotherly affection, outdo one another in showing honour. - Romans 12:10

***“In your anger do not sin”  
Do not let the sun go down while you are angry,  
And do not give the devil a foothold.***

Ephesians 4: 26-27

