

## Reflection for Monday of 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter

Believing in Jesus led Stephen to his death. It makes us think about our lives with Jesus and where it will lead us. Listen to this reflection by a follower of Jesus.

**A Tandem ride with God:** I used to think of God as an observer, a judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know Him.

But later on, when I met Jesus, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Jesus was on the back helping me pedal. I am not sure when it was Jesus suggested we change, but life has not been the same since I took the back-seat. He makes life exciting. When I had control, I thought I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when Jesus took the lead, he knew delightful long-cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places all at break-neck speeds; I could only just hang on! Even though it often looked like madness, Jesus said, "Pedal!" I was worried and anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into an adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared", He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord's and mine. And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So, I did, to the people we met, and I found in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets; knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, and fly to shorten scary passages. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus.

And when I'm sure I just can't go any further, Jesus just smiles and says, "Pedal."(Author unknown)

Believing in Jesus demands the whole of your life!

- **I was having dinner with Garry Kasparov and there was a check tablecloth. It took him two hours to pass me the salt.**
- **Four fonts walk into a bar the barman says "Oi - get out! We don't want your type in here"**
- **'A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "because," he said "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer." '**