

Reflection Monday Week 20 – 2020

Ezekiel the prophet uses images and examples that often make us shudder, if not, they remain inaccessible to us. In these situations, it is good to look for simple explanations. It is possible that Ezekiel is using dramatic imagery to help us understand the true importance of our relationship with God. That, if we get this relationship right, everything else will fall into place; our relationship with each other, our friends and even our enemies; our relationship with nature and creation. It may not seem obvious but this is precisely what the rich young man in the gospel is seeking to improve. On face value, he already has an excellent relationship with God, not only keeping all the rules but reaching out to neighbour, forgiving wrongs, going the extra mile for others, and being generous with what he has. But he wants more, and that's the crunch. We may not even match up to the young man in loving God and neighbour but, like him, we, too, want to better relationship with God because we know, as Ezekiel states very clearly, everything in our lives depends on it. In the case of the rich man and ourselves, ultimately, we are in control of what we do (apart from our failings of course). Jesus, however, is asking us to give over to him the control of our lives, to place complete trust in him.

A Tandem Ride with God

It is possible to think of life as riding a bike - a tandem bike with Jesus on the back helping with the pedalling. Life has its ups and downs but, with Jesus on the back, we always manage to get through. Then one day Jesus suggested that we change places. One person put it like this. "Since I took the back-seat to Jesus, life has not been the same. Jesus makes life exciting. When I had control, I thought I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable. It was often the shortest distance between two points. But when Jesus took the lead, he knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places and at break-neck speeds; it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it often looked like madness, Jesus would just tell me to **"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 adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared", Jesus would lean back and touch my hand. Even when I am sure I just can't do any more, Jesus just smiles and says... **"Pedal."**

Bicycle . . .

A pedestrian stepped off the curb and into the road without looking and promptly gets knocked flat by a passing cyclist. "You were really lucky there," said the cyclist. "What on earth are you talking about! That really hurt!" said the pedestrian, sitting on the pavement, rubbing his head. The cyclist replied, "Well, it is fortunate for you because **I usually drive a bus!**"