

Reflection Monday Week 22 – 2020 St Aiden

Jesus must have looked forward to returning to his home community and even privileged at receiving the scroll from which to read. Choosing a reference to himself from scripture, he could have milked it for his own benefit but, on the contrary, he lays bare truths that the people did not want to hear; as he did, so often, in his public ministry. It raises the question why does the truth frighten us so much?? And, yet, as Jesus said, *“The truth will set you free.”* **Mahatma Gandhi** said, *“When I despair, I remember that all through history the **way of truth and love** have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it--always.”* **Henri J.M. Nouwen** said, *“The real trap is self-rejection. As soon as someone accuses me or criticizes me, as soon as I am rejected, left alone, or abandoned, I find myself thinking, “Well, that proves once again that I am a nobody.” ... [My dark side says,] I am no good... I deserve to be pushed aside, forgotten, rejected, and abandoned. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the “Beloved.” **Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence.**”* **Pope Francis** said, *“The truth finds its full realization in the very person of Jesus, in his way of living and dying, the fruit of his relationship with the Father. As children of God, people are given this same access to truth, sent through the Holy Spirit, “who is the Spirit of truth, who attests to our hearts that God is our Father. In every one of his actions we affirm or deny this truth. From small everyday situations to the most demanding choices. From our trust in God, who is a Father and loves me, loves us, my . . . your truth is born.”* **Macrina Wiederkehr** wrote *“O God, help me to believe the truth about myself, no matter how beautiful it is!”*

Truth . . . ?

What do you get if you ask a politician to tell 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth'? **3 different answers!!!**

*I use to support higher spending on education. But then I learned a harsh truth. No matter how smart we make our children, **50% of them will still be below average.***