

Reflection Tuesday Week 25 –2020

Often the simplest stories are the most profound. Jesus' revelation today is mind-blowing – **we are his brothers and sisters**. There is no higher honour than to have Jesus as a brother. It reveals how much he loves us, how much he cares for us, that we are family. Do we live in recognition of this great honour? Do we live so that others would recognise us as brothers or sisters of Jesus? Before being caught up in failing to live our calling, not being good news in the way Jesus was, we need to pause and reflect. Jesus called us to be perfect like our heavenly Father is perfect, but, in this life, perfection is not static, just as, in this life, the Father continually seeks to do more and more to help us. Perfection is something towards which we grow. Perfection is more akin to never giving up, always striving to be better, improving on the good we have done, not for ourselves, but for others and for God, and especially our brother, Jesus. Perfection requires patience, an ability to acknowledge and affirm the good we do as a step towards perfection. Perfection does not ask us to climb a never-ending hill but to enlarge our vision, helping us see the wider picture better, enabling us to make better choices. Know then that you are on the road to perfection because you are a brother or sister of Christ. If some of us move more slowly than others, it is often because we will produce richer fruits. Think about the slow evolution of our planet, the gradual adaptation of many different species.

This world is not the accomplishment
of a moment of your time, Lord, that we can see clearly.
Those rugged cliffs, thrust from the depths of the sea,
filled with the evidence of the past, were not created in the blinking of an eye.
The diamond's hardness, did not come suddenly.
This is the work of an infinite patience,
the creation of something of which its creator could be pleased.
And now Lord, this infinite patience,
this creative love is directed towards us,
formed as we are from the very elements
of the world in which we live.
Your creative Spirit still at work,
tireless, ceaseless, endlessly creating in our hearts the image of your likeness.
The only difference being, the diamond had no choice
in whether it would be transformed into such beauty.

A monster visits a doctor with a branch growing out of his head.

"Hmmm," said the doctor. "I've no idea what it is."

The next week the branch was covered in leaves and blossom.

"I'm stumped," said the doctor, "but you can try taking these pills."

When the monster came back a month later the branch had grown into a tree, and just a few weeks later he developed a small pond, surrounded by trees and bushes, all of them on top of his head.

"Ah!" said the doctor, "I know what it is now. **You have a beauty spot.**"