

Reflection Saturday Week 32 – 2020

We have been pestering God day and night now for several months for a healing from Covid 19. Hearing Jesus say; *"I promise you; God will see justice done to them, and done speedily,"* fills us with encouragement. Let's keep up the prayers as we begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel that is becoming clearer day by day. God seeing justice done and keeping his promises is always a tricky one. When our prayers for someone is answered we are OK. When our prayers seemingly appear to fail, we believe this is not what God wants and are left secretly disappointed. Yet, we do not believe that God wants the wars and injustices that rape and pillage the world, and rightly so. A better question to ask is: **how** does God keep his promises since he does answer our prayers but not always in the way we expect or want. Frustratingly, it is only in hindsight that we understand the wisdom of God in those prayers seemingly unanswered. Some understanding is found in the fact that it was out of great love for us that God became Man in Jesus Christ. Jesus' overriding desire was to save us from self-destruction, from sin. Jesus realised that salvation could only come at a cost and that cost was his life since this is the only way that we would fully appreciate and understand God's love for us and how important we were. Isn't all love a sacrificial offering? We would not want it to be any other way; after all, we are made in the image of God. When your prayers apparently go unanswered, search for the wisdom of God that lies behind it and discover a deeper understanding of God's love for you.

Oswald Chambers wrote:

*It will be a wonderful moment for some of us when we stand before God and find that the prayers we clamoured for in early days and imagined were never answered, have been answered in the most amazing way, and that God's **silence** has been the sign of the answer. If we always want to be able to point to something and say, "This is the way God answered my prayer," God cannot trust us yet with His silence.*

Noticing an elderly couple in McDonald's with only one meal between them, a young student asks if he could buy them another meal.

"That's very kind of you," replies the elderly woman, *"but you see, in our marriage my husband and I share everything. This is enough food for both of us."*

A few minutes later, the student notices that the only elderly man is eating while his wife sits in silence.

So, the student asks again *"Perhaps I could buy a meal for you after all?"*

To which the woman replies: *"Oh no, it's fine. I'm just waiting for my turn **with the dentures!!!**"*