

Reflection Tuesday Week 5 - 2021

When God told MAN to conquer and master creation, God did not mean that we can do what we like with it and abuse, misuse and harm it as terribly as we have done. There are different reasons for conquering, the best understanding is that its aim is to bring peace and harmony to a place and a people, not for personal gain. A true master is one who aims to get the best out of people not for his own sake but for the good of the person and the benefit of all. So, a good master would help create a balance and harmony in creation in which all will benefit. In destroying our planet as we are doing will ultimately lead to our death, and the end of time will come well before God intended it. As we die out, we will wonder who mastered who and who conquered who? Fortunately, there is time, although we are in a state of emergency, to repair the harm we have done. People across the world are taking steps to do that. Efforts are made to create clean energy, use new farming methods allowing the earth to produce healthier food, deserts are being reclaimed for arable land, supermarkets using less plastic and much, much more. We are all called to make every effort to be less wasteful of water and electricity, not to print things unless absolutely necessary. If we truly love our neighbour, we will not hesitate to do this. The Scribes and Pharisees were only interested in themselves not in others. Jesus rightly challenged them on this and their underhand treatment of the law they professed to follow. Today Jesus would say, if you truly love your neighbour, heal and nurture the planet. There is a strong argument that Covid 19 is a consequence of our mistreatment of the planet. Vaccines are all well and good but healing the planet will lower the possibility of further outbreaks of harmful viruses. The future is in our hands. What kind of master will you be??

A gorilla walking through a jungle came across a deer eating grass in a clearing. The gorilla roared, *'Who's the king of the jungle?'*, and the deer replied, *'Oh, you are, Master.'* The gorilla walked off pleased. Soon he came across a zebra drinking at a water hole. Again, he roared, *'Who's the king of the jungle?'*, the zebra replied, *'You are, master.'* The gorilla walked off pleased. Then he came across an elephant. *'Who's the king of the jungle?'*, he roared, at the elephant. With that, the elephant threw the gorilla against a tree and jumped on him. The gorilla scraped himself up off the ground and said, *'Ok, ok, there's no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer!'*