

Reflection Tuesday Week 25 St Matthew Apostle 2021

The calling of St Matthew raises a number of questions. Did he just drop everything and follow Jesus? How much did he know about Jesus? Did he know what he was letting himself in for? What is encouraging is that whatever the answers to these questions Matthew was willing to follow Jesus without any knowledge or understanding of where he was going and what he would face. Many who follow Jesus are unaware of where the journey will take them. Did Matthew know he was going to write a Gospel?

The wise say that in following Jesus we write a page of the Gospel each day; some days being better than others. Following Jesus means responding to what happens on the road with Jesus and truly trusting that the Spirit, given us, will help us respond as Jesus would want. It shows an ability to trust that Jesus will give us the words and understanding that he promised he would in all our encounters. Society today pressurises us to be in control of our lives and we are continually called to make choices. But, to be a follower of Jesus, we have to hand over complete control of our lives to him.

Following Jesus is like riding with him on a tandem bike.

Initially Jesus is on the back helping pedal. Then, at some point, Jesus suggests we change places. When this happens life changes radically. When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable, often the shortest distance between two points. When Jesus takes the lead, he knows delightful long cuts up mountains and through rocky places, and at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, Jesus said, "*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 the adventure. If I said "I'm scared", he'd lean back and touch my hand. He took me to people with gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey with Jesus. And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So, I gave them to people we met and I found that in giving I received, yet still our burden was light. At first, I did not trust giving Jesus control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but that never happened. He took me places I would never have dared go. I learned to shut up and pedal in the strangest of places. I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face. And when I believe I can't do any more, Jesus just smiles and says, "*PEDAL!*".

Why can't elephants ride bikes?

They don't have thumbs to ring the bell.

I sold my top-of-the-range Porsche and expensive BMW today but I kept my bicycle.

I don't want to get the **Car-Owner-virus**.