

### Reflection Saturday Week 13 – 2022

One of the lessons that life teaches us is that it is full of ups and downs. Our preference, quite rightly, is to stay in the ups but, eventually, there comes a time when we fall down, fail, things go wrong; some falls being much worse than others.

From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus experienced success mostly among the ordinary people rather than the leaders, who seemed to continually want to bring him down. They eventually had their way. The leaders led Jesus to the most ignominious of deaths, death on a cross.

Most of this week Amos has prophesied that Israel faces a catastrophic downfall. Today, Amos reassures them that this is not what God wants for them but, if they face up to their downfall, they will eventually rise and become a better people because of it.

Jesus rose again after his death and appeared in a new and glorified body filled with new life – new wine. Facing our downfalls, our failures in life, with faith eventually gives God the opportunity to lift us up. It will be like receiving new life. The downs in life provides the means of emptying ourselves, of being purified so that we are able to receive new life, a new spirit, new energy as if receiving a new body. As always Jesus turns negativity, pain and suffering on its head. How wonderful and how great is our God!

A lawyer woke up in the hospital after his surgery and he asked, *“Why are all the blinds drawn in here?”* The nurse answered, *“There’s a big fire across the street and we didn’t want you to think the operation had been a failure.”*