

Reflection Thursday Week 20 – 2022

Ezekiel reminds us that God has given us hearts of flesh. Hearts that feel love and sorrow, pain and joy, suffering and exaltation. Hearts capable of compassion, kindness and gentleness. Hearts that have a deep, deep longing for God. In the current difficulties and trials that we face, we need strong hearts like these as we move to the future together so that no one is left behind.

Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast, a time of joy, celebration and love that brings families and communities together. This is what shared love does, it unites people in a special way, as the interflowing love grows stronger in all those who participate.

From the Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

'What is REAL?' asked the Rabbit. 'Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?'

'Real isn't how you are made,' said the Skin Horse. 'It's a thing that happens to you. When someone loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.'

'Does it hurt?' asked the Rabbit.

'Sometimes,' said the Skin Horse. 'When you are Real you don't mind being hurt.'

'Does it happen all at once, like being wound up,' Rabbit asked, 'or bit by bit?'

'It doesn't happen all at once. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in your joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.'

'I suppose you are real?' said the Rabbit.

'Someone made me Real,' he said. 'That was a great many years ago; but once you are Real you can't become unreal again. It lasts for always.'

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen", the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly and asked, "How do you know that?" "Easy", the little boy said, "All you have to do is add it up, like the priest said - 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."