

Reflection Thursday 5th January Christmas Season 2023

A most endearing quality of Jesus was his sensitivity, insight and awareness of others. In John's gospel, choosing his disciples, he renames Cephas, Peter, the Rock. He tells Nathanael he has no deceit in him, he pays great tribute to John the Baptist. Isn't this one of the best expressions of love? Love recognises the value and importance of other people. Love allows others to take first place without being diminished or feeling second place. In fact, it promotes an inner joy in being able to offer some support or help. It senses that whatever generosity is given, for whatever purpose, the giver receives back so much more in return. It might even be said that in true love the pronoun 'I' has now place to dwell. Love enables a person to help both the good and the bad, even when feelings and thoughts are very negative.

The only people to reject Jesus were those who believed they were more important, more powerful, more deserving than others; and those who felt that Jesus threatened to undermine their power. Their Ego dominated their lives.

I Saw Jesus (Lance Landall) (extract)

*Yes, I saw Jesus today, He was walking close beside someone,
and their clothes looked tatty, their hair dishevelled — the kind that some shun.
He was smiling and chatting, and offering them a helping hand,
taking an interest in them — while for others — His eyes still scanned.*

*Yes, I saw my Saviour today, and He was comforting someone,
someone who had tears in their eyes, tears that had far from just begun.
He had His loving arm around them, and had tears in His eyes too,
and I'm sure that I heard Him say, "I understand, I've been hurt too."*

*Yes, I saw Jesus today, He was carrying a bag or two,
and they were laden down with food, some other necessities too.
He approached a run-down house — was clutching His wallet as well,
and I saw Him empty His wallet before He rang the doorbell.*

Fred is talking to Jim at a New Year's Eve party:

Fred: What was your New Year's resolution this time last year?

Jim: To join the local gym

Fred: So, What's your New Year's resolution this year?

Jim: **To start going to it!!!!**