

Reflection Midweek 27<sup>th</sup> August

## **John 16:8-15**

**And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.**

**'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.**

When I read this passage yesterday, Wednesday, I was short of time to prepare a reflection and I breathed a sigh of relief and thought that since I had only just got back from some time away I would wait until Sunday before returning to preparing reflections.

In the afternoon we had our weekly on-line staff prayer time and this phrase jumped out at me as the passage was read aloud; -

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now."

We all have a different capacity for taking in and retaining information and that changes at different points of our life. We have different learning styles which means that some people can learn very easily through just reading a document, other learn better through listening and questioning, others through practical experience.

An exceptional teacher is one who, whilst working with a group, enables each individual to prosper, grow and learn.

Jesus knows about each one of us, how we learn, how much we can cope with at any one time. He realised that his disciples had reached maximum capacity for that time but that did not mean they had nothing else to learn. The Spirit of truth was to be shared with them and they would learn more about life and truth in the coming days.

Over three years of sharing and teaching he had used different methods with his closest followers than those who would occasionally gather around him.

As individuals we can learn different things about God through the same experience, book or sermon, for the Spirit of truth speaks to us directly what we need to hear and learn, though we need to be prepared to listen and learn.

In recent weeks some have been returning to public/congregational worship for the first time in 4 or 5 months others as yet have not been able to do so, but that worship has been different from how it used to be.

We have been challenged to worship God more in the privacy of our own homes than being led by a preacher from a pulpit. We have experienced worship on-line – worship led by a preacher but not in that sense of community and congregation that we are used to. Many have enjoyed this style of service (drinking coffee whilst casually dressed) and for some, who for sometime have been unable to attend public worship, it has been a real blessing.

As a Circuit we will need to be looking at how we move forward in many ways through what we have learnt to do; to see what is "employed (for you)" or laid aside (for you)" to use a phrase from the Covenant Service.

What have you learnt about God and yourself in the last few months? What will you take into the future as a lesson learnt that you might not have discovered in "normal" times? What will you stop doing that you used to do and what new thing will you maintain in your faith journey?

