

Reflection Sunday 14th February

Mark 9:2-13

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. ¹¹Then they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹²He said to them, "Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him."

"Rabbi, it is good for us to be here," Mark 9:5

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" Psalm 122:1

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Mark 15:38

Three short verses that as I reflected on the first led to the other two coming to my mind. It is many months since we have been regularly able to go into what we would call "the house of the Lord" in terms of our buildings. (Psalm 122)

When was the last time you invited someone into the "house of the Lord"? Perhaps you feel nervous about doing so in case they turn you down or it changes your relationship with them. During this last year many people have been seeking the spiritual and have been thinking more about prayer than for a long time.

Have you thought about letting people know about our online worship which they can access from the comfort of their own armchair? It might be a stepping-stone to coming and joining in Church Fellowship in due course.

The Mark 15 verse reminds us that when Jesus died upon the cross any barrier between humanity and God was removed forever. We have open access to the presence of God, any time, any place, anywhere. There is no limit to when or where we can worship God and spend time in God's presence

(Now did you associate that phrase with a Martini ad or Joe Morris and his Orchestra? - Now some of you will start Googling!)

Peter wanted to stay a long time in the presence of Jesus - It is good for us to be here. In these Lockdown days have you used the extra time at home to spend more time being with Jesus?

Peter also wanted to spend time with the people of faith, Moses and Elijah. Sometimes in the past we may have wanted to get out of a place of worship as quickly as possible (though I do find that at the end of an ecumenical event it is normally Methodist's last to leave). In the days to come may we be less focused upon the moving of the minute and hour hand on the clock and more focused upon the privilege of being with others in worship, in the house of the Lord, no barriers present.