

Reflection Wednesday 27th January

Luke 6:12-16

¹²Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

I have been listening to Cricket Commentary on the Radio over recent weeks. There is something about listening to Test Match Special I find relaxing and enjoyable. In the last couple of weeks there has been commentary on the Test Matches in Sri Lanka. None of the commentators were at the ground; they were watching TV coverage and speaking of what they were seeing. Some were broadcasting from their home, others from a Cricket ground in this country and the statistician from his garden shed. It was a bit like Church in Lockdown living remotely but sharing together through technology.

In one tea break at 9.10am GMT (yes that is correct) there was a conversation about Joe Root, the current England Cricket Captain, and his cricketing career. Early on in his Test Career he was dropped from the Team. He rose to the challenge spending time practising and developing his skills to become one of the best batsmen England has ever known. Discovering his name was not on the team sheet was a shock and a disappointment but it spurred him on to greater effort.

We often think that Jesus had just twelve disciples but if you read the passage carefully you will see that is not true; "he chose 12 of his disciples" to be apostles whose names are then listed. What happened to the others? Did they stop following? Did they just give up? No, many continued and we get a sense of Jesus being supported by many in his ministry, supplying his needs for food and accommodation, amongst other parts of his ministry but we don't know all their names.

There were a number of women who followed Jesus, a couple of Mary's, Joanna, Salome, and of course we read he sent out 72 other disciples (Luke 10). We do not know their names but even the demons submitted to them when they used the name of Jesus. (Lk.10:17)

It matters not whether your name is listed on the team-sheet for public viewing; if you are a follower of Jesus he knows who you are and what you are able to do, by his grace and strength, for the Kingdom. As Joe Root went away, trained and practised, so we can be fit for purpose by spending time in the presence of our personal trainer, Jesus.

At the end of Lockdown how fit will you be for what lies ahead having had time to live with different priorities?