

Reflection Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

## **John 12:44-50**

<sup>44</sup>Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. <sup>45</sup>And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. <sup>46</sup>I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. <sup>47</sup>I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup>The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, <sup>49</sup>for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup>And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me."

As we are on the eve of the climax of the Holy Week events that hold our attention, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection we find Jesus speaking very clearly about who he is, his role in history and the results of his message.

The light came into the darkness and here the light declares that through belief in him there is a way out of darkness; through belief in his words there is a route through judgement.

The words of Christ will be the judge at the last day; how we respond to them matters; how we respond has an effect on life in the now and on into eternity.

There is no great examination to pass, no dissertation to write, no continuous assessment just a simple check "have you believed in Jesus as the Saviour of the world?" "Whoever believes in him shall not perish, but shall have eternal life."

This is the message that John has been declaring from the beginning of his Gospel. The message is about Light and Darkness, life and death and then not as alternatives, grace and truth.

Jesus is asked by Pilate "What is truth?" a simple question, but one that is hard for us to answer. Jesus had spoken about his coming into the world to testify to the truth; God is truth, ultimate truth and ultimate love. Jesus has spent his ministry declaring the truth about God and demonstrating it through words and acts of love and grace.

In the coming few days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday we will have in our minds the events of Easter Sunday but for those about whom we read in our Bible passages the truth of Easter Sunday was not in their minds. They heard words, saw actions, reacted and responded in the moment in which they lived, pre-Easter Sunday. As once more we hear and read the accounts of these few days put yourself where they were and ask yourself "How would I have responded?" How would you have responded with police and soldiers threatening you? Many of us would have denied like Peter and run away like others (Mat. 26:56b). We may feel that Peter failed because he betrayed, yet he was one who had at least followed Jesus to be in the courtyard of the High Priest.

It is easy to condemn or criticise another for their reaction but in their shoes how would we truly respond?

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you are truth, you are grace, you are light. As we once more follow the account of your passion and death may we be drawn closer to you, may we be more aware of ourselves and become more gracious to others.

AMEN