

Greenways Benefice Weekly Devotional (No 9)

19 April 2020

Encountering God In Brokenness : Romans 8: 26-27

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Next Thursday is Ascension Day, the day that Jesus ascended to be with his Father for ever. The ascension had a profound impact on the disciples who up to that moment were puzzled trying to figure it all out. They were distraught when Jesus told them that he was leaving them and going back to his Father and that they would not be able to follow him.

But after the ascension they worshiped Him and travelled back to Jerusalem with great joy. At first this may catch us off guard, Jesus had just 'left them' but they were happy, filled with joy. Why this reaction I wonder? He kept them from the brink of despair by saying 'You are not losing me I am going to be with you in a different way through my Spirit'.

The ascension of Jesus produced joy because the disciples realised what amazing benefits would come to them.... and also to us....

The life, death and resurrection were confirmed and the final payment for sin had been made. (Heb.10:11-14)

When Jesus ascended ,the intercessory work on behalf of His people began. We are assured that we will always have access to the Father forever. (1John 2:1)

When Jesus ascended, His eternal reign over all enemies began.

“Now that he has gone into heaven, he is at God’s right hand with angels, authorities and powers subject to him” (1 Pet.3:22)

Finally, when Jesus ascended, the church was empowered to accomplish its mission. “God the Father put everything under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the Church”. (Eph.1:22)

Today the world seems to be broken in so many ways and we may not know how or what to pray. However, thinking about the verses from Romans 8 we read that the Spirit helps us in our weakness . We may not know how to pray but the Spirit intercedes for us with 'sighs too deep for words'. God searches our hearts, He knows us and loves us and so knows what is the mind of the Spirit interceding for us.

When words fail, we can be still and know that God is God and He hears our prayers through the Spirit, the Advocate and Helper.

I like the illustration made by Pete Greig;

His 3yr old son was keen to write and so he encouraged him when he produced scribbles on paper. One day he produced some scribbles and said "Read it Daddy" . His father looked at the picture rather puzzled at first but because he knew his son so well, was able to 'read' the picture by looking at his son's face.

We can encounter God, the 'searcher' and 'reader 'of our hearts in our anxieties, worries, brokenness and lack of words. We can go forward with confidence because God's work was perfected in Jesus Christ through his resurrection, ascension and releasing of the Holy Spirit. 'He has everything under his feet' and his promise, "I will never leave you or forsake you " stands forever . Amen.

God Bless

Judith