

Reflections for 18th October 2020

St Luke's Day

Today is St Luke's Day and the reading set for the Gospel does not really say much about St Luke. We are told about his disciples being sent two by two to visit all the places Jesus was going to visit to prepare for his arrival. We perhaps tend to think of twelve disciples but there evidently were a large number of disciples besides the closest ones we read all the time about. As St Luke wrote one of the gospels, perhaps he was one of the otherwise un-named disciples and of course he wrote the Book of Acts. It is worthy of note that Luke travelled on some of the missionary trips of Paul and this can be noted from the passages where the description says "we" went and did something while in other places it says "they" did something. Luke also had some medical expertise and would have been a doctor of the time.

The reading we have for the epistle is about St Paul who was in trouble with the authorities in Rome. He describes how he had been deserted by a number of helpers and only Luke remained with him. However, he also says The Lord stood with me, strengthened me and saved me from the lion's mouth. I assume the Lion's mouth is a euphemism for the Roman authorities.

It is clear that Luke was a serious disciple but what do these readings say to us?

First it seems to suggest that we may be among the disciples that are called to serve our Lord. It may not be by visiting towns in the way described in the Gospel reading but there are many ways of showing what it is to be a Christian in this world: Ways of serving God. I sometimes think we should make it clear to people that we are Christians: I remember when I was young the vicar insisted on always wearing his Cassock in public so that he could be recognised. People should be able to recognise that we are Christians and we should not hide behind anonymity.

Second there is much support available and we are not on our own. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two not on their own; Paul says "The Lord stood by me and strengthened me". We should not think we are on our own at any time: we always have the help of the holy spirit and our fellow Christians.

Third, in seeking to help our neighbours, we need to look at where they are and what it is that they need not what we **think** they need.

Jeremy Hopkinson

Heavenly Father,
May we be alert to your call to us to serve you in whatever
way you have planned for us;
May we remember that we are not alone in seeking to spread
the good news of the gospel;
Help us to see where we can be of service to the people we meet
and help us not to be ashamed to show that we are Christians. Amen.

Bible readings: Isaiah 35: 3-6; 2 Timothy 4: 5-17; Luke 10: 1-9

Story: "The Kind Stranger" (the story of the good Samaritan, from the gospel reading, Luke 10)