



ROB'S BLOG

July 2013 – Time

Sometimes a great enemy, to be fought, cheated, argued with, given in to; chronological, tick tock, passing at a constant rate that timetables and organisation can manage.

Sometimes a gift, beautiful, of God, valuable but free, and everlasting; moments, which have their own intrinsic value, spirituality, and purpose.

Jesus knew about moments and their importance, He accepted interruptions because of their importance, He sought time with God because prayer is not about chronology, but now. He told his disciples initially to keep secret His being the Messiah, then, when the moment was right, on Palm Sunday He let them acclaim Him as He rode towards the purpose of His life - His death which was to define His life.

It strikes me that because we read the New Testament, we Christians sometimes get a cock-eyed view of Jewish Faith. I have started reading a little book simply called 'The Sabbath', written by an American Rabbi in the 1950s. He speaks of Sabbath, not as I would assume, as a rigid law that has to be strictly kept, but as a cathedral of time, a momentous space in which to experience and encounter God. The experience of entering a cathedral is designed to be an awesome one - space, sound, speed, encounter, moment, gift.

Some of us will find time may drag, living alone, longing for the boredom to cease, and something to fill the days. I remember as a child being moved by an elderly great aunt telling my Mum as we visited that she got so bored sat in her little terraced house she was fed up of counting the tiles round the gas fire.

Some of us have busy schedules and have to try organisation and time management, some of us are better at it than others!

I appeal for us to hear the wisdom of the rabbi, who, I think was very close to what Jesus knew, time is a gift; Sabbath is God's gift to us, it's about rest not because it is about doing nothing, but because it is about doing the most important thing - encountering God.

As the old hymn says: "take my moments and my days - let them flow in ceaseless praise."

God bless,

Rob

