

Peter

“So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church.”

Upon Peter

Before Peter there were the people of Israel

The people of God

Who were constantly getting things wrong

Building Golden idols

Being forced into exile

But God chose these people

Weak and faulty as they were

The story of their relationship being the story of the Bible

Then Peter

Jesus Christ choose Peter

And Judas

And all the others who ran away from the soldiers

In the Garden of Gethsemane

But God chose these people

Weak and faulty as they were

The story of their relationship being the story of the beginnings of the church

Then came the 2000 year history of the Church

Our Father in heaven choose these people

With corrupt Popes

Wars of religion

Burning of heretics

Self-righteous indignation

But God chose these people

Weak and faulty as they were

The story of their relationship being the story of salvation

So where do we get this misconception that things must be perfect

Circumstance is never perfect

Yet God is prepared to work with it

Who then are you to refuse

When I was fifty years younger

I decided that my life would be a modern version of St Francis of Assisi

But as yet I have not had beatific visions

Thankfully my hands and feet have remained clear of the stigmata

And as yet I have excused myself the suffering which comes with poverty

So things are hardly perfect

Should I then give up upon my youthful ideals

No

I know that God is prepared to work with my faulty nature

Who then am I to refuse

Not so long ago a women's football game attracted a few indulgent parents

And a bored wandering man with his dog

From that pathetic expression there has been real development

There is a level that is now professional

Competitions are now respected

Women are seen as athletes

But we lost the world cup

It is not perfect

So should we all give up on the game

No

I know that God is prepared to work with our faulty nature

Who then are we to refuse

Then painfully we can recognise the evil
that lead to the death of babies in the care of our national health service

This system that is supposed to give care to all at the point of need

The trust we place
in those who should know more than we do

We so desperately want it to be perfect

Free from a fallen world

But it is not free

So should we give up on social care

No

I know that God is prepared to work with our faulty systems

Who then are we to refuse

Indeed I want it to be perfect

The health system

The Education system

My relationships

My joys

That way I do not need to personally make the effort

God worked with the people of Israel as they were

Jesus worked with the Apostles as they were

The institution of the church has in times past failed

And has never been abandoned

“So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church.”

Upon Peter

The same Peter who disowned Jesus three times

It is not perfect

So follow the divine

example

And make the most of what you have

In this way we shall overcome.