

Ten Bridesmaids

It is only really in this part of the world

In our own age that being on time is considered essential

Indeed the idea of a nationally shared agreed time came only with railway timetables

For most of the world

For most of the ages

Time has been an estimation

So the foolish Bridesmaids were daft

They did not have to provide the food for the feast

They did not have to provide the booze for the feast

All they needed was to have some oil in their lamps to guide them in to the feast.

Because the bridegroom is always late

Christianity is a faith of participation

A faith of involvement

Our Contribution is potentially infinitely small

The contribution of God Infinitely vast

But the choice does have to be made

Faith

Life

There is need for

Participation

Involvement

I have told the story before. The priest with the leaky roof and no money in the Bank. He prays God could I not have a Lottery win. Could I not find the correct numbers? Could I not pay for what is necessary with the funds of a big rollover success?

He prays with great passion

Then a frustrated voice from heaven whispers in his ear

Do me a favour Father

Buy a ticket

At least buy a ticket

No ticket

No win.

Participation

Involvement

If you want a beautiful Garden you must plant some flowers. You must try

and fail,

and try again.

God provides the rain, the sunshine, the miracle of growth

But you must at least plant the seed

If you want to pray and feel the presence of God

Then you must find time for silence

You must try and fail

and try again

God provides the call

The exploration

The growth within

But you must at least find time for silence

If you want to make the best of what you have

Then you must attempt to use the gift

You must try and fail

And try again

God gives to each different gifts

But god gives to all

Accept what you have and participate

Take what and where you are involved and celebrate

But you must at least attempt

As you get older it does not get any easier

And the temptation to excuse yourself from life and sit watching homes under the hammer

Or staying in bed so much longer

grows greater

So remember all you need is to put oil in your Lamp
The demand is not made for that which is beyond you

Our faith is one of

Participation

Involvement

Be prepared to light your lamp

Reach out to God and take the risk of life

And the infinite love of God will reward you

How I don't know

But it is our faith

That the feast is wonderful.

There is a place for you in it

But you must at least participate.