

Sermon 21st July 2024

You must come away to some lonely place and rest

But the crowd saw, and he set himself to teach them.

We are coming close to the season of holidays. Travel companies advertise beaches and hotels which are devoid of crowds, anxieties and pressure. The promise is you can rest.

There is nothing wrong with holidays. There is nothing wrong with taking time out. Where meals are provided, and places of relaxation are spread out beside the pool.

However if you believe that all your problems will disappear when you step into the plane. If you place all your hope on that two weeks away. Then you will have swallowed the lie, and swallowed a dream.

Like Jesus when you arrive you will find that you have come with your fears, illnesses, and dilemmas that like sheep without a shepherd run wild in your mind.

The time to deal with those fears, plans, and joys is now

The place where you are

Here and now

Then you will indeed be able to enjoy your holiday.

You must come away to some lonely place and rest

But the crowd saw, and he set himself to teach them.

The busy person who never stops rarely understands what is happening. Speaking to one person today, with the intention of preparing for tomorrow. Enduring an issue lived today because of the fear of what may happen tomorrow. Experiencing a conversation without any appreciation of the other person. Blinded to what is by what may be, could be, will be.

Then the tomorrow that was expected does not happen.

Many things predicted do not happen, or when they do, have little significance

Like Jesus when the busy person arrives there is still more to do.

In this rush of life little of value is recognised

The time to deal with appreciation is now

The place where you are

Here and now

Even between events

Then you will indeed be able to enjoy your today and your tomorrow.

And not just yesterday

You must come away to some lonely place and rest

But the crowd saw, and he set himself to teach them.

What you see before you, the child the grandchild

Is changing before your very eyes

What you see before you the home, the job, the friendship

Is changing before your very eyes

What you see before you the hours, and the days, and the weeks

Are changing before your very eyes

You must find a lonely place

Within your day

Within your mind

Within your life

And rest for a while

Even here demands will be made of you

In the silence of prayer and thought

Demands

Like sheep without a shepherd

Will call upon you

In the Gospel despite the pressure Jesus did in fact find silence

You must do the same

Here and now

In the place where you are

At this point in your pilgrimage

Investing not in a fantasy of tomorrow, or in all the techniques used by those who are too busy to
see

You must stop and look.

Here and now

Here and now

Between events

Here and now