

Easter Thoughts

I am writing this at Easter-time and during the Coronavirus lock-down, with all its uncertainty of possible outcomes. Could not this be the best time *ever* to review and take stock of our lives?

In reflection, can I ask myself: now freed from all my usual activities, and umpteen duties, including work, how can I best use this word Time? I don't need to become preoccupied by filling this Time by activities and diversions to keep my mind off whether I will contract Covid-19 or not. In fact, Jesus would often draw aside from the business of life to spend time with His Father in quiet prayer, two-way conversation with His Father. Can I not take more time to spend with Him too, reading His Word, reviewing my life and seeking His wisdom in a time of quiet? . How about each of us doing this and seeking God's re-direction for our lives? What we really seek at this time is God's reassurance that our future is safe in His hands; as well as His guidance as to how to spend the rest of life, serving Him and passing on the faith He longs to give us day by day.

Surely, we are being given a wake-up call that our Creator is not at all pleased with the way humanity has been treating His creation? We find in the early books of the Bible how God punished those who failed to live by the very clear rules He laid down for His chosen people. Is this not the Time now when Save the Planet activists, Humanists, agnostics, and all faiths together with committed Christians, should be making common cause? Every single person, and 'even a sparrow' said Jesus, is of equal value in the sight and plan of God. The way each one of us lives is crucial – for the future of His Planet. Why should we in the UK think, for instance, we are more important than the desperate folk in refugee camps in South Sudan, or Yemen, or anywhere else? Can we imagine what it is like living in such a camp and trying to self-isolate as Covid 19 strikes?

Don't let us think only about whether scientists and medics can come up with ways to cope with the virus to save some of us from this invisible enemy. We live in the real world. But was it worth Jesus sacrificing His life to save us? Are we prepared to suffer and sacrifice, in our turn, our perceived 'needs' and whims in this life to further His cause, as so many are doing now to save the lives of patients in our hospitals? Right NOW is the Time to reflect and give this Time to pray that *we* can – as we must – change our ways of living in this world.

Bartimaeus