

Where is God (1) - Near of Far

I am looking through binoculars at the field behind the vicarage. I wonder what's happening over there? Is it Mr Hibberd putting out the cattle?

We sometimes think God is like that - looking at us from far away. Do you remember that song - "from a distance, God is watching us". Its as if from far away, all our wars and strife mean nothing, from far away things look ok.

And you can find that view in the bible - "part the skys o Lord and come down to us", or even Psalm 22 - "where are you my God? Why have you forsaken me?"

And we make that view of God that he can't do anything - he's just watching us, in a nice way. But unable to interfere.

Then there is the other view in the Bible, summed up in the song "what if God was one of us? just like a stranger on the bus?". What if God was here and close. And that's also in the Bible - "Lord you are closer to me than my breath" " My name is written in the palm of your hand".

Here's' the thing I find interesting:

We say God is far off, he doesn't care, he's left us alone to fix things ourselves - so we get disappointed and say " stuff you God"!

or

We say God is close, immanent, - acting all the time - and we get disappointed and say - he hasn't answered all my prayers, found me a parking space etc

We can be disappointed with either view. I think what's going on is that we are making God in our image.

Because we don't' care, or want to be in control - because if were God that's what we'd do. Or we'd be judgemental.

So we make God in our image, instead of finding out what he's really like.

God is clearly both near and far, he is everywhere, and unknowable. Yet he allowed himself to be known in Jesus.

God came to earth as a human being.

Yes - Jesus came to be among us, one of us, loving us = sharing our humanity.

Whatever we're going through - Jesus knows what's its like. Whatever our circumstances, Jesus knows.

Jesus is with us in this time too - no matter what we feel like.

In fact he has said "I will never leave you or forsake you".

He promises to be right here, with us, right now.

And that lovely verse encouraging us to ask, seek, knock - just turn around and open the door, and I will be there.

The best friend, you'll ever have, is waiting to be with you in this and any situation.

And he's not powerless, or uncompassionate.

And he will be there.