
Sunday 7th June 2020 – Trinity Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31 & Matthew 28:16-20

Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord,
or instruct the Lord as his counselor?

Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge,
or showed him the path of understanding?

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

Before him all the nations are as nothing;
they are regarded by him as worthless
and less than nothing.

Why do you complain, Jacob?

Why do you say, Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary

and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Reflection

Over the past few weeks, I have been captivated by a sports documentary on Netflix, called the 'Last Dance'. The TV series revolves around the career of Michael Jordan, a former professional basketball player for the Chicago Bulls. He began his playing career not long before I was born and, as a child, I remember Michael Jordan being one of the biggest celebrities. His incredible talent alone propelled him to become a world-wide phenomenon and I have greatly enjoyed learning about the story of his success. What I found most interesting was his unwavering determination and self-belief in his ability. He had every right to be so confident and his superhuman ability was immediately recognised in his debut season as a Rookie. However, his immense desire to win at all costs, led him to not trust in his teammates. When the games against other teams were close in score, Jordan would refuse to pass the ball and aim to score points on his own. His inability to draw upon the help of his teammates meant that the Chicago Bulls failed to win a championship in Jordan's first five seasons playing.

Why do we also sometimes find it so difficult to ask for help? I found out this week, in a study by a British car insurance company, that compared to women, men drive an extra 20 miles every year as a result of being lost. Also, that 26% of men will wait at least half an hour before asking for directions, with 12% refusing to ask altogether. It is amazing to think of the lengths we would go to sort things out for ourselves before asking for help.

In our reading today from Isaiah, we are reminded that the Lord "never grows weak or weary...He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless...and those who trust in the Lord will find new strength". At the present time, a great majority of people across the globe are facing a tough battle mentally with coronavirus, and some are facing a physical battle. Our reaction to struggle is often to try and handle the situation on our own. I think we can learn a great deal from Paul, a man who faced many trials during his mission trips. In his 2nd letter to the Corinthians he explains his difficulties in Asia and says that "we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God". The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us to.

Phil Jackson, head coach of the Chicago Bulls, helped Michael Jordan to become a basketball player "who surrenders the me for the we". Jordan learned to trust his teammates in crucial moments and the Bulls went on to dominate basketball for years to come, winning six championships. We have the greatest teammate who wants to encourage us, strengthen us, and walk with us through all of life's struggles and victories. We to, need to trust the God who always provides and ask for his help. God is interested in every area of our life and he encourages us, again and again, to ask him for everything we need.

This week, if you are struggling, ask God for help, and remember that “those who trust in the Lord will find new strength”.

Charlie Auton