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WEEKLY LETTER – 24 APRIL 2022

John 20.19-31

It takes time to discover who Jesus really is.

When some of the disciples were fishing on the Lake of Gennesaret Luke 5.1-12, they had used the whole night trying unsuccessfully to catch fish. Along comes Jesus and says, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch”. You will know how it ends with Peter recognising the power of God working through Jesus. This encounter with Jesus shakes Peter to the core, just as today’s gospel shows how Thomas is completely overwhelmed with an inner realisation of who Jesus is. Instead of calling him master, teacher or rabbi he uses the title Lord (Kyrios).

A similar experience happens when the disciples were in a boat being tossed all over the place, and Jesus approaches the disciples. Here again the disciples fall down before Jesus, revealing their terror and adoration, and they confess “Truly you are the Son of God” – Matthew 14.22-23. In each of these three encounters the disciples sense in Jesus the presence of the Living God himself.

Perhaps today we can recognise two aspects of our lives, for like the disciples we are often unaware who Jesus really is then, there is a deeper awareness that Jesus is, “My Lord and my God” – John 20.28.

Part of the reality of being a pilgrim is not to claim we ‘cracked the code’, or ‘we are fine’, rather to know the importance of daily exploring more deeply who Jesus really is. You have time as there is life after physical death!

In the gospels we can see that ever so slowly, the disciples realise that Jesus does not fit into the traditional Jewish categories, so he is more than and different from “one of the prophets”. Understandably it took time for the penny to drop,. Understandably, it takes us time to comprehend who Jesus really is.

Today, perhaps you will enjoy looking back at the words Jesus spoke on the ‘Sermon on the Mount’, words that tell us things we cannot tell ourselves. You can ponder on his mighty deeds and also think what it means that Jesus Christ can forgive sins. Yes, he is in some ways like Moses, in that he speaks as a friend, but there is more. Then moving on today’s reading, which may well be the culmination of all your discoveries about who Jesus is. it is in the encounter with the truth of the resurrection that you are perhaps more able to more fully realize who Jesus is and why life has been given to you?

On this extraordinary day, let us pray with as much sincerity and energy as one can that we will continue to daily read the Book of Life, allowing ourselves to be enlightened and cleansed to learn more about who God is and why we are here.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Sue Radd

Bible Readings: Acts 5.27-32 : John 20.19-31

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Uniting Church, Sketty.

**Free Taster Session - Gentle Yoga and Relaxation
in Christ Well - Tuesdays 26th April and 3rd May – 1.30-3 pm.**



Hello,

We hope this letter finds you well, and may you be discovering new stories of hope as you continue to venture forth into this new terrain. We are dropping you a line because Swansea Street Pastors have been fairly quiet. We wanted to update you on where we are at with this fulfilling, rewarding and faith stretching ministry to our city.

Where we are at

For reasons which are obvious to us all, we ceased our town centre patrols two years ago, and are now doing the necessary preparations to enable us to re-establish regular shifts in our town centre streets, at night, on the weekends.

What's been happening

Many preparations are under way, these include

- Rescheduling refresher training
- Renewing our DBS checks
- Carrying out risk assessments

The police recognise the value of having us around and have asked for us to resume our patrols as soon as we can. We are optimistic.

How you can help We recognise that Swansea Street Pastors undertakes to work on behalf of local churches and your support and engagement is critical to our success. Please could you pray for us?

The future

Later in the year we will be looking to raise the profile again of the incredible ministry of blessing our city. Understandably our numbers have depleted, and we will be looking to recruit. Maybe we could come and talk about the work of Street Pastors and share what we do to listen, care and help on the streets.

Contact Please do get in touch, as we would love to hear from you. You may want to find out more, be able to offer help, or just simply drop us a line of encouragement. We would really like to hear from you. Thank you for standing with us.

Please email – secretary.swansea@streetpastors.org.uk.

We pray that God would continue to bless your ministry and multiply all your work to further His kingdom in your communities.

Christine Carter Co-ordinator Swansea Street Pastors

Catherine Lloyd Secretary: Matt Carter Chair: Win Hawkins Treasurer.

Witnesses (*Lectionary readings: Acts.5.27-32: Psalm 118.14-29: Revelation 1.1-8: John 20.19-31*)

Jesus, we are witnesses of your Glory, the resurrection and the life.

We desire to honour you, by *living* the gospel!

Forgive us when powers of human authority silence compassion and neighbourly love.

We are witnesses of your glory, Lord.

Help us follow your voice, and strengthen our character to share your compassion and love.

In a world where some would want us silent, unkind us, and help us speak truth with love. **Amen.**

(Stephen Ansa-Addo – URC Prayer Handbook 2022)