

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 22th August 2021, Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament: Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18

Psalm: Psalm 34: 15-22

New Testament: Ephesians 6: 10-20

Gospel: John 6: 56-69

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Fiona Beale

Many years ago, a missionary society wrote to David Livingstone, a Scottish Presbyterian pioneer medical missionary in Central Africa, and asked, "Have you found a good road to where you are? If so, we want to send other men to join you." Livingstone wrote back, "If you have men who will come only because there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all." Whether you are a missionary, or in ministry or a disciple following Jesus, there will always be times of encouragement and times of discouragement, joy and even heart break.

Today's reading Jesus, gives the remaining disciples another opportunity to walk away: in verse 67 Jesus asked the twelve 'You do not want to leave too, do you?' This to me is more than an invitation to walk away. It is also a call to commitment to follow him. Christ's call to commitment is a double-edged demand. It is setting out clearly his life mission and his expectation for those who would go further. As well as weeding out those who are not committed from among them. This results in, many dropping out.

This is hard to handle not just for the disciples back in Jesus' day but also for each of us today. Let me encourage you to spend some time reflecting on your own commitment to Jesus. Do we follow Jesus for what we imagine he can do for us or for who he is and what we can do for his glory?

Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear
than we to pray and to give more than
either we desire or deserve: pour down
upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our
conscience is afraid and giving us those
good things which we are not worthy
to ask but through the merits and
mediation of Jesus Christ your Son
our Lord, who is alive and reigns with
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday
Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1
1.15pm

one God, now and for ever.