

Trinity Sunday Year A 2020

*Mathew 28:16-20*

Yesterday was my grand-daughter's birthday. As a family we had planned to meet up, socially distancing of course. We were unable to do so as a child's parent in her class has recently been diagnosed with coronavirus virus and now, they are self-isolating. Great disappointment all round especially for my grand-daughter. The temptation to ignore the government rules and still meet up was very great but as responsible adults we were never going to do that. We obeyed the law.

This morning's Gospel reading from Mathew is known as the Great Commission. It is a passage rich in content speaking of how the eleven disciples obeyed Jesus, worshipped and doubted, how Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth, how they are to go and make disciples of all nations, baptise in the name of the Father and of the Son and of The Holy Spirit and how Jesus will always be with them until the end of time.

What I really want to concentrate on is verse 16 "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them". Earlier in this chapter verse 10 to be precise Jesus tells the women, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to "go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me". That is exactly what the disciples did. They obeyed and they did indeed see Jesus. Remember the disciples are in Jerusalem having witnessed the crucifixion, there is only eleven of them because Judas hung himself after betraying Jesus and now, they are told to go to Galilee. Galilee is not just around the next corner; it is over ninety miles away. We are not told how the

disciples got there but I am sure the journey would have been very difficult and challenging. Never the less the disciples obeyed.

In today's world obeying God and doing His will is not the first thing that most people do, even Christians can find it challenging to cooperate with God in what he wants. It's not that easy is to obey especially when in our own minds it might not make sense or it might be challenging and difficult. In the Bible you can read about those who like Abraham obeyed God and was willing to sacrifice his son. You can read about those weren't obedient like Samson. Then of course there are those who initially chose not to obey God but eventually does so like Jonah.

I don't know about you but at times I have certainly found it very difficult and very challenging to be obedient. Various difficulties have caused me to question my calling on more than one occasion, when I almost gave up. Had I done so I would not have been obedient to my calling and God's will for me. No doubt most of you will be able to think of some circumstance when the last thing you wanted to do was to be obedient to God's will. Sometimes we may think we know better than God but we don't. God really does know better than us.

The disciples went to Galilee, not knowing what Jesus had in store for them. Gods will not always be revealed before we obey. As Christians we are expected to obey whatever the circumstances as we sing in that old hymn "trust and obey for there is no other way" The disciples put their faith into action obeyed the instructions, to Baptise, to make disciples and to teach from the Great Commission. If we obey as the disciples did, then all sorts of opportunities are opened up to us and we do things that we never could do on our own. I never ever thought I would be able to stand in a pulpit and deliver a sermon. I was given a good piece of advice "Remember you are not doing this on your own".

The first time I stood in the pulpit to preach as nervous as I was, I had this wonderful sense of God being with me. Maybe there have been times in your life when you have had similar experiences.

The disciples obeyed Jesus and went to Galilee. It is what they were told to do and it was the only way they would get to see Jesus again and find out what he had in store for them. It is only through our obedience that we will get to know what God has in store for us. Obedience will allow us to see the full power of Jesus in our lives, get to know Jesus better and fulfil God's plan for our lives. God didn't only give the Great Commission to his eleven disciples he gave it to everyone who believes in him. As the old hymn goes "Trust and obey for there is no other way" Are you ready to obey and follow Gods command and be active in the Great Commission?

Amen.