

Third Week of Advent

Wednesday 16 December 2020

Reflection 18 – Day 18

***Not the light!***

We see in John 1.6-8 an interesting diversion from the introductory narrative in John 1.1-18. In the New Testament passage which beautifully mirrors the Genesis creation narrative, we have an odd interruption which talks about John the Baptist, but why?

One prevailing thought is that the Gospel of John was written in Ephesus either by one author or a collection of authors who lived near to a community which had some very strong beliefs in the person of John the Baptist – even going so far as suggesting that John was the Messiah!

But we see here that he is not the light but, *“He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him [...] he came to testify to the light”* (v.7-8).

Is this a mission that John was himself called to? Or is that perhaps a calling for all of us? Are we all called *so that all might believe*? Certainly, we are called to be witnesses to those around us, but to be witnesses so that all believe! is that too much to ask?

But let us think, John’s ministry in the first century AD was limited to those in and around the Jordan where he was baptising, but have not many of us (if not all of us) received John’s baptism? Do we not, in the Nicene Creed, state that *we confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins*?

John, I believe, would have done all that he could, and look at the long-lasting effect that his faithful work has done. This, I believe, is what we are called to; to faithfully do all that we can with what God has given to us and to let God magnify it however He wills to.

Father God,

Thank you for calling me to live and work for you.

I pray that you will help me and empower me to live and love bravely and to work boldly for your Kingdom.

I give you my all.

In your holy name, Lord Jesus, I pray.

Amen