

Sell the field

Again this week we have a common sense Gospel.

One which has a difficult and practical application to life.

One which is based again in the liberating powers of humility.

Because "Humankind cannot bear very much reality"

The acceptance of this truth is the means by which valuable insight can take place.

The acceptance of this truth can mean real love of our life.

This young person was surrounded by family members, and friends who appeared successful and happy. The aspiration of her home was very rightly high. Everyone was assumed to be doing their best. Believing, to quote Muhamad Ali, that "If I was a road sweeper, I would be the best road sweeper there ever was."

Ironically this drive proved to be one of the frustrations which inhibited development.

Nothing was ever good enough.

Nothing ever provided the immediate rewards that were sought.

A love of music meant that piano lessons were taken up. A lack of immediate progress meant that they were dropped.

A love of nature meant that hiking boots were purchased. A day in the wind and rain without proper preparation meant that they were rarely used.

A love of sport meant that a subscription to a gymnastic class. An experience of failure meant an abandonment of effort.

No book was ever fully read. No computer game completed. No diet ever successful. No commitment possible. No risk taken.

Humility would mean that the individual will expect to pass through times of boredom and struggle.

Humility would mean that the individual did not expect to perfect all things, but have the capacity to sacrifice many, and be able to focus more.

Humility would mean that the lessons of commitment would give a vision,

of an aspect,

that illuminated the whole.

Go and buy the field.

This young lover was surrounded by friends who it seemed had found loves young dream. This individual came from a home where Mum had met Dad. There was a pleasant and attractive appearance. There was a clear family understanding of personal worth. All that was wanted was the discovery of the perfect partner.

Ironically this idealism proved to be one of the frustrations which inhibited development.

No one was ever good enough.

No one ever provided the care and interest at levels expected.

A deep love led to the marriage vows. A lack of energy after the birth of the first child led to a diminishing of expressions of affection.

A pattern of success within the family led to expectation. A lack of mutual ambition led to habitual criticism.

A pattern of defeat led to a transfer of objectives to the children. A lack of empathy led to areas of secrecy within the home.

No blessing was ever recognised. No kindness ever enough. No day lived with contentment. No peace possible. No appreciation of who was there until death.

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This journey of faith was surrounded by pilgrims who seemed to understand. The aspiration was to follow the example. Moments of prayer touched on possibility. A gift of real faith invited further exploration.

Ironically this aptitude proved to be one of the frustrations that inhibited development.

Never feeling good enough.

Never reaching the joy that seemed promised.

A love of Christ Jesus meant a familiarity with scripture. A lack of personal discipline meant self-recrimination.

A love of silence and contemplation meant that prayer was possible. A pattern of denial meant that emerging truths were uncomfortable.

A love of community came from the celebration of church practice. An intolerance of others meant distraction, and annoyance.

No prayer ever seemed completely valid. No act of charity without vanity or self-aggrandisement. No society without squabbling. No commitment without reservation.

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Go and buy the field.

You cannot have it all.

Indeed what you can have, is actually quite limited

The irony is that

in the acceptance of simplicity

The path to ever more beautiful reality

Is opened

That in the acceptance of what I am

Comes the capacity to be more

That in humility

I can invest and not dissipate my energy.

What is the most beautiful thing in your life

Go on

Go out and buy the field.

