

Lent Reflection 23rd March 2021

John 8: 21-30, Psalm 102:1-3 and 16-23, Numbers 21: 4-9

Once more Jesus said to them 'I am going away and you will look for me and you will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come.' Jesus here once again is trying to tell the pharisees who He is and why they must believe in Him sent by the Father, God. Jesus is not pulling any punches here; he tells them they are sinners and will die in their sin and because of this they will not join Jesus in Heaven.

Jesus tells the pharisees they are of this world. In today's world many people are shaped or influenced by the world in which they live by advertising, social media, influencers – whatever they are – the desire to have what other people have and have power or control over their lives and perhaps others. All human responses, just like the pharisees. These are sins in my book, yes by all means look at these things going on around you but first and foremost look to Jesus and God the Father and do not be blinded by the modern world. In verse 27 Jesus tells them 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.'

Jesus is referring to His death on the cross and His resurrection and unless we believe in these we too continue to live in sin. Through the cross and resurrection, we are rescued from sin but first we must turn to Jesus and God.

Look at the reading from Numbers; again, the Israelites are moaning so God punishes them with snake bites or put another way they are bitten by sin and then cured by the bronze snake. They are saved by God and this is the message that Jesus gives all believers today that we too can be saved from the sickness of sin by looking to Jesus' death on the cross. In John 3 verses 14 and 15 Jesus tells us 'Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.'

The Psalm is a prayer for help to live a blameless life or life without sin, see verses 1 to 3. The rewards are Jesus' future reign on earth when the whole world will worship God. So, till then, we must live our lives with Jesus and God,

worshipping and studying The Bible safe in the knowledge of Jesus' death for the forgiveness of sin and eternal life. That for me is the message of Lent.

Let us pray

Heavenly Father, help each one of us to live a life following the words of your Son Jesus Christ. Keep us safe from sin and the pressures of the world in which we live. This we ask in the name of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen