



Tel No. 01792 415222

Email: [manseltonurc@gmail.com](mailto:manseltonurc@gmail.com)

**Weekly Letter – 25 August 2024**

**John 6.56-69**

**‘Not possessors of truth, but seekers of the truth’**

When Jesus says in verse 56. “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him”, he seems genuinely disappointed that his disciples found his words so difficult to understand.

What’s for sure is that Jesus really does want/need us to understand his words, and therefore he is expecting all of us to be open to his truth.

Searching for truth: Like you I have a desire to be faithful to Jesus’ truth, but I am also acutely aware how much I have to learn. I am very much like Abraham, setting out on a journey, and at times rather unsure where I am heading, and knowing what is God’s truth. But Truth is the way and the life, while complacent inaction is spiritual death. Or put it like this, I am perfectly happy to get up every morning, have my breakfast, and yet I still haven’t fully answered the question about the meaning of life! And yet deep down I’m sure we all know the desire for truth is fundamental to each one of us in living an honest and noble life, and we know that the material world perishes, while truth is everlasting. So truth is right up there!

Perhaps when we know something has died within us, and something new is born, we know we are still seeking truth? Or with reference to Abraham again, Christ is encouraging us to cease from promoting our own ideas, and leave our little egos behind, and say each time we read God’s Word, “here I am and I wish to let go of the reins, so that I can be more faithful in seeking you, the truth, the way and the life – this is the journey I wish to embark on.

Jesus is, I sense, encouraging us all to reveal our true humanity, by revealing our desire for meaning, truth and the good. This means as we journey on we acknowledge that like his 12 earthly disciples, above all we recognise we are weak and erring individuals. Of course this seems like a rather dispiriting message, but humility is never dispiriting. Rather, what Christ desires is in many ways what Martin Luther wrote, “We must always seek him and search for him and ever keep seeking him”... ‘For not he that starts to seek, but he that ‘perseveres’ in seeking to the end will be saved’. (Matthew 20.22, 24.1-3). As with Abraham, this journey is full of surprises, and unbelievably nourishing.

***Stephen***

**P.S.** Do read Matthew 5:6

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Mrs Adella Pritchard.  
A Songs of Praise Service.**

**Welcomer – Claire**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton**

**Prayers for every household - we will pray for Cecil Street, nos. 65-99**

**We will not say ‘Be with us Lord’** (Lectionary readings 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84: Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34.15-22: Ephesians 6.10-20: John 6.56-69)

Who is like you, Sovereign God, in heaven or on earth?  
Forever true to your promises,  
binding yourself to your people in loyalty and love:  
could such a God as you ever take a leave of absence from us?

Therefore we will not say ‘Be with us, Lord’ – for you are always with us.  
And when we gather at our church, our house of prayer,  
it is not because you’re there and nowhere else, not because we think that special places  
or special words can give us special words can give us special access to your love.  
Instead, it is because you graciously draw us to yourself and invite us,  
in company with all your people, to become aware of your hand upon us.

We will not say ‘Be with us, Lord’ – for you are always with us.  
But this we will say: Lord, may we know today your presence – surrounding, infusing, hallowing.  
And though heaven and earth cannot contain you, may our lives become a home to your name,  
a testimony in your glory and love.

Dominic Grant (URC Prayer Handbook 2024)

