Rely on God Rather Than Ourselves

Jesus said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money - not even an extra tunic.” (Luke 9:3, NRSV).

Life is one long journey made up of lots of smaller ones. We like to prepare for our journeys; making sure we have packed enough clothes to cover all possible weather events. We match outfits with shoes and end up with extra luggage just to take the shoes. We even buy extra bits along the way to remind us of where we have been or to cover that one situation that we didn’t think of. Often when we get home we find that we didn’t need most of what we have lugged around. Last holidays my barbecue, camp oven and fishing gear did a 4,500km trip without being used!

Jesus calls us to a different way. In sending out his disciples with the command to take nothing with them he was instructing them to rely on God to provide the things that they would need along the way. He is still calling us today to rely on God rather than ourselves. This is a tough call but yet he calls us.

It is what we declare when we recite the Creeds, declaring our belief in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is what we declare in the Lord’s Prayer, ‘give us today our daily bread’. We are asking God to provide for our daily needs. We expect God to do so. The challenge for us is to live this out in our lives.

This is the challenge taken up by seven of our students who made their confirmation on September 8th in front of Bishop Ian Palmer. Bradley Gardiner, Rhiannon Hunter, Cameron James (Year 6), Jarrod Colwell, Paxton Hewitt (Year 7), Bronte Gavey and Abigail Skinner (Year 10) all made a personal commitment to follow Jesus. As they continue their faith journey they will face many challenges, but they embark on this journey confident in the promises of Jesus to always be with them to guide, comfort, and love them.

These challenges will also be faced by our departing Year 12 students. Having spent so much time in an environment where the Christian faith is a foundational motivation and compass, they are moving on to a world that promotes a multiplicity of faiths and beliefs. A place where anything goes as long as you are not hurting someone (especially me). These students will need to call on all that they have learnt, especially during Christian Studies, in Chapel, and in what they have witnessed from Christian staff and students if they are to successfully and safely navigate these waters.

Please pray for our Year 12 students and those who have confirmed their faith that they may continually draw upon their faith and rely on Jesus as they continue their life’s journey.

With all the blessings of Christ,
Reverend Tony Card

“In sending out his disciples with the command to take nothing with them he was instructing them to rely on God to provide the things that they would need along the way.”