**North East Circuit of Independent Methodist Churches**

**Devotional for Sunday 3rd May**

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**Introduction**

* Isn’t it easier to often spot other people’s talents than our own?
* This continued period of isolation gives us the opportunity for self examination which is something we often avoid.

**Hymn: Teach me Thy way**

Teach me thy way, O Lord; teach me thy way!
Thy guiding grace afford; teach me thy way!
Help me to walk aright, more by faith, less by sight;
lead me with heav’nly light; teach me thy way!

When doubts and fears arise, teach me thy way!
When storms o'erspread the skies, teach me thy way!
Shine thro' the cloud and rain, thro' sorrow, toil, and pain;
make thou my pathway plain; teach me thy way!

Long as my life shall last, teach me thy way!
Where’er my lot be cast, teach me thy way!
Until the race is run, until the journey’s done,
until the crown is won, teach me thy way!

**Bible Reading: John 20**

**20** Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) **21** When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?” **22** Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

**Devotional:**

* In the C S Lewis book The Horse and His Boy (one of the Chronicles of Narnia), the character Shasta asks Aslan about Aravis one of the other characters in the book. Aslan replies “Child, I am telling you your story, not hers. I tell no-one any story but his own”
* In our reading we have Jesus saying something similar to Peter. In the previous verses we see Jesus asking Peter three times if he loved Him and the gave Peter a commission to feed His sheep and lambs.
* Peter had been given the opportunity to redeem himself after denying his Lord three times. He was restored to a position of trust and leadership within the group of believers. Then he looks at John and asks, “What about him?”
* There is an old response to the call of Christ which is ‘Here I am Lord, send him’
* Rather than focussing on the role he was being given, Peter wanted to know what John was going to do. Jesus had a plan for John as He did for all the disciples but Jesus would reveal that role to them as time went on.
* We don’t know from Scripture what happened to all the disciples, but we know from other sources that they went to various places – Thomas for example went to India where he was eventually martyred.
* Some of the disciples stayed in Jerusalem and used the city as a base.
* The Lord has a role for each of us but sometimes we look at someone else and say, ‘What about him/her’? The Lord calls us as individuals and asks us to focus on our task not someone else’s.
* In 1 Corinthians 12 vs 29 we read “Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles”?
* We are all given different roles. Perhaps some of the most important are not seen by the majority of the congregation. Those called to pray daily for someone or something specific. The caretakers; bakers and tea makers.
* In the Book of Acts, we read of the coming of the Holy Spirit. It was a very much changed and confident Peter that stood in the city and preached the message of Christ Crucified and three thousand were added to the believers.
* What is the Lord calling you to do today. It doesn’t matter what He is calling others to do, as we hear His voice may we focus on the task he gives us and glorify His precious Name

**Prayer:**

O God our Heavenly Father, we thank you that we are known by name to you. We thank you for the talents you bestow upon your people. Even in this time of lockdown and crisis help us discover what it is you would have us do?

Once more we pray for the decision makers and frontline workers who work tirelessly for the common good. Many making difficult decisions whilst others are working in difficult and dangerous situations.

We pray that many may turn to Christ in these days!

**The Lord’s Prayer**