

## **Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2021: Mark 10.17-end, 11.11-26**

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And so here we are: paused; poised; almost at the edge of freedom. Almost. We are not quite there yet; we wait, just a little longer, to hear that our freedoms which once, perhaps, we took for granted, will be restored to us.

We've got used to waiting. Perhaps we've even come to be quite good at waiting. As a society and as individuals we've learned patience, maybe imperfectly; but for many of us the learning has been costly.

So for now we continue to wait, just a little longer; wait to be told that our freedom is returned to us.

And as we wait these last days we may wonder, what will we do with our restored freedom?

Maybe some things are obvious – catch up with loved ones; take a holiday; return to work; pick up a hobby we've been forced to put down; grieve....?

Then what? Do we also continue to do those things which were good over the last fifteen months? Do we continue with new hobbies? Do we continue to reach out to and help our neighbours? After the initial flurry of catching up those things we've been so looking forward to, what will we take forward?

The Gospel readings this week tell of a series of people asking things of Jesus: the rich young man asking what he must do to obtain eternal life; James and John asking for the honour of sitting at Jesus' right and left hands in Heaven; the blind beggar asking Jesus to restore his sight. Of all these only the last, Bartimaeus, received what he asked for. What was different about his request? Perhaps, the others were seeking some sort of recognition or affirmation. So too, in a way, Bartimaeus was seeking recognition of his condition. But in a society where blindness or any other disability would likely cause a person to become an outcast, as Bartimaeus indeed was, at its heart his request was simply to restore him as a human being in the eyes of those around him. Jesus has not come to reward, but to heal, and his actions bear witness to his purpose.

When we are able to step out into our restored freedom, those things we choose to take forward and those we choose to leave will reveal our inner priorities, the deeper thoughts of our hearts, so let us choose wisely.