

## **Reflection for Sunday 9 August 2020**

Have you ever imagined a perfect world? Aldous Huxley gave us a “Brave New World”. Aladdin promised Jasmine a “whole new world” and we were told of a “mad world” by Tears for Fears.

But what about a perfect world? A world where nobody wants for anything. People are fed; children all have access to education and are cared for by parents who are in a loving and committed relationship. A world where resources are distributed fairly and nobody is discriminated against because of race, colour, gender or any other difference.

Sounds like a dream, doesn't it? What is your dream for a perfect world?

But then, what would life be like with no struggles? No striving to achieve despite any difficulties. No campaigns to change the world. No need to worry about anything. So often we think that when we accept Jesus as Lord that our worries are over. That somehow when we follow Jesus we have a protective cloak around us that keeps us from harm.

The reality in both cases is very different. We do not live in a perfect world. Nor do we gain divine protection when we live a life of faith.

So what can we do? How can we live in a world that is crying out for help, physically, emotionally, economically, culturally? How can we overcome the difficulties we are facing at the moment to change our world for the better? How can we stop being so overwhelmed by all the struggles in the world?

One step at a time.

Jesus never promised us an easy life – quite the opposite in fact. But he did promise a lighter yoke and his presence always. We are reminded of our assurance of that presence, our comfort in times of distress, our shelter in times of trouble, at the end of the “Footprints” poem. When we see only one set of footprints – it is then that Jesus carries us.

We cannot change our world overnight. But one step at a time, even when some of them feel like they are going backwards, we can change our world together.

The Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr reminds us “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference”

So let us be aware of the troubles around us, and those within us and allow Jesus to carry us in the hard times so that he strengthens us to change the things we can.

Keep safe

RevRuth