

Reflection

Mark 2: 23-28

There is a well-known saying: "Fiddling while Rome burns". Its historical origins are much debated and disputed. Supposedly, Emperor Nero played a musical instrument that was yet to be invented, whilst the capital city of his empire was on fire. Regardless of this, it refers to a situation when a trivial, unimportant thing is attended to whilst a crisis unfolds. It highlights a human tendency to focus on small things when big things are happening. To be fair, it's an understandable coping strategy as we try to deal with something that feels unmanageably large.

Nevertheless, when the Pharisees criticise Jesus because his followers have, in a very casual, inconsequential way, broken a Jewish law regarding the keeping of the Sabbath, it really does seem to me that they are missing the point.

Fiddling while Rome burns?

Making a mountain out of a molehill?

Not getting the big picture?

Jesus is offering eternal life, healing, forgiveness, a new way of being, love beyond our imagining...and the Pharisees in this story want to talk about a minor infringement of the law.

Before we get carried away with further criticising the Pharisees...what do we focus on that isn't so important compared with these big things Jesus offers us and offers all people?

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Help me to see things how you do.
Help me to value the things you value.
Help me to put aside the things that get in the way of me reaching you and that become barriers for others to do so.
Amen.

Back to Church

As we move towards the next stage of returning to use the church building for worship, it would be really helpful to hear your thoughts on what you feel about coming back to church again. Should we continue with Zoom services and the YouTube package? Would you be comfortable coming back for the, at present, limited style of worship in the building?

Our current thinking:-

weekday "quiet" services to start in August; hopefully commence Sunday services in September, but most likely to be limited/invitation/pre-book only – maybe aimed at specific age groups? Eg. A family service and a quieter reflective one.

At present, congregational singing is not permitted and numbers attending are strictly limited.

Please let me know what you feel about all of this:

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I look forward to hearing from you!

God bless.

Gerard