

JSP Groups, Week 5 – Unlearning

Lord Jesus Christ, you enlighten our minds;
help us to be set free from all that obscures.
You offer us a new way of living;
help us to let go of all that holds us back.
You capture our hearts with the Good News,
help us to be creative, wise and Spirit-filled
as we live to glorify your name. Amen.

We examined a number of beliefs and practices to see if they were compatible with Christianity. We noted that the Church has changed its' mind on some issues.

We spent time thinking about our reading (Mark 7.1–8, 14–23). Noting that this was an argument within Judaism rather than Jesus against the Jews, we reflected on the following questions:

- **What exactly is Jesus challenging in the attitude of the Pharisees?**
- **Are there traditions, rituals or habits in your own life that Jesus might want to challenge?**
- **Why is it crucial that we 'unlearn' wrong attitudes to groups of people in society—attitudes that can be fuelled by prejudice, racism, sexism etc?**
- **Why might it be so hard for us to tackle this?**

We looked at John 13.1–15 and thought about:

- **What did Peter have to 'unlearn' in this situation—why was it such a struggle for him?**
- **What can we learn from the way in which Peter handles it?**
- **What challenges have we had to face, similar to those of Peter?**
- **What can we learn from these experiences?**

Finally we reflected on what we might have to unlearn as a result of the pandemic.

- which people do we value the most?
- what is important? (as long as we have safe homes, have enough to eat and keep warm, then kindness, company with others, not possessions)
- we have managed to bring our services online
- what does this mean for our services in the future?
- we don't need to travel to work so much
- the Church as Servant
- how we relate to our neighbours – this is both positive and negative
- a greater appreciation of the environment

We will spend time reflecting on this during the week, and come back to it next Thursday.