

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Book of the Exodus – the book of the leaving behind – Exodus Chapter 16:

Moses and Aaron said: “In the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord” in Abundance is the glory of the Lord God. God the father who gives His love in abundance, Our Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life to show the abundance of love that is of God. The Holy Spirit within the disciple who allows the disciple to see, feel, love in abundance as it is shared, given away in abundance.

So that the disciple rejoices to say in words, in action, through money the great gospel proclamation:

“In the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord in abundance”

We hear much in the media about an economy suffering from deficit, we hear much about the need for growth in an economy, we hear much about productivity in an economy. But God’s economy is the economy of abundance; an abundance of love which paradoxically only grows, is only more productive, only clears all deficits when it is given away; in abundance. God’s economy, the economy of abundance.

The economy of Mammon, is the economy of anxiety. The economy of Mammon and sin is the economy of anxiety about money, the economy of anxiety about age, the economy of anxiety about children.

When we are able to make our Exodus, our leaving behind the economy of anxiety of Mammon who is about money, age, children. When we are able in our hearts and minds to set aside the anxieties, and simply to recognise the abundance of God’s grace and mercy and love then every morning we see the glory of the Lord and then we move from members who are anxious to keep the show on the road. We move from membership to discipleship, to being Kingdom Builders who recognise the glory of the Lord in their exodus from anxiety, leaving behind the anxieties to journey with God, to be Kingdom Builders confident in God’s economy of abundance, The abundance of God’s love.

It was the abundance of God’s love which Jesus showed to the woman who came to wash His feet with her tears of anxiety as to who and what she was, she wiped His feet with the abundance of her hair, the liberation of being with God, accepted, known, the abundance of love that is of God shown in the abundance of the ointment poured over Jesus feet.

Gods economy of abundance, notice Jesus knew who she was, what she was. He didn’t send her away to change. He simply accepted her. What good news. He knew her better than she knew herself because Jesus knew this woman has changed. Hence the parable because in God’s economy of abundance, enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven, strangers made welcome. There is the mission plan for disciples who are God’s Kingdom Builders.

God loves a cheerful giver says Paul to the Corinthians because God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance.

There is the glory of the Lord we celebrate at every Eucharist, every time we receive bread and wine in Holy Communion. In Holy set apart relationships with God and there in bread and wine we experience the abundance of Jesus life, death, resurrection, the glory of the Lord, in leaving behind the tomb of the past, which is what forgiveness means. Exodus, leaving behind the anxiety because enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven, and strangers made welcome within ourselves, within the

wilderness within. The Holy Spirit teaches us much in this season of Lent, teaches us abundantly about the love which allows us to face the questions, the doubts, the confusion, the anxieties of our own wilderness. Then and only then we can help the enemies, forgive the debts, make strangers welcome with the Good News that in the morning we shall see the Glory of the Lord of the economy of the abundance of love, that is of God.

Significantly we celebrate our mission plan as we prepare to receive the sacrament of bread and wine. A sacrament is the outward and visible sign of God's inward spiritual grace. Grace the word we use to describe the abundance of God's love for each one of us in each one of our lives. We receive Our Lord Jesus Christ into our hearts and minds and lives in bread and wine, gifts which are received at the altar with our money because money is the sacrament of seriousness.

Disciples of Jesus working to build God's Kingdom of love know first the abundance of God's love in relationships, in the soul where heart and mind meet. In that place where like the woman in the gospel, the place where I am most authentically me and I am with Jesus, however I may describe that relationship. In the economy of God's abundance then our response is one of serious gratitude, which is why Kingdom Builders always appear to be generous. The response of love to love, the obedience of our promises and commitment to God, generously given, as we renew our pledges to the Christian life, to leadership, to ordained ministry, here and now tonight.

We are all called to be first and foremost disciples of Jesus, that is the excitement of faith, the excitement of discipleship, the excitement of leadership, the excitement of ordination. In the morning we see the glory of the Lord – no two days are alike, we journey, we make our exodus day by day, hour by hour, to encounter God in the wilderness on the journey. It's not worth being a Bishop unless you aspire to being a better disciple to hear again that wonderful story of the woman and her ointment. To hear again that story of acceptance, understanding, love; the story of God's economy of abundance. There is the Good News for the disciple to share that is the Good News that we are the Kingdom Builders.

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