

Advent III – 11.12.16

Jesus bids John's two disciples, "Go show John again those things ye do hear and see". Words we in a sense cling to – but words which, to be fascinating, have to be heard. And to be heard, they must be listened to carefully, "Go show John again those things ye do hear and see". Not go show him – but "Go show John".

There is this closeness between John Baptist and Our Lord. They were taking on the world. "Go show John again those things ye do hear and see". Show John again.

There is no "again" literally in the Greek text. But the "again" is there in the Prayer Book in order to make sense of what the two disciples are bidden, "Go show John the things which ye do hear and see". The "again" follows. The things that they are to make known to John, they, John's disciples, have to remind themselves of what they have seen and heard. They must needs see and hear them, these things, again – in order that John too may hear and see them – and the "again" doubly so, since John himself had seen something of those things before he was imprisoned.

Through the reminders that his disciples bring, he John, sees and hears them again. And these are fascinating words in the sense that it is, from time to time that we endeavour to live again the things of the past.

Near to Christmas we know again the warmth of an open fire – where as a child we sat in the comfort of loving parents who, in whatever form, at the expense of themselves gave tokens of their love.

There – Mum and Dad – with perhaps no direct mention of the Gospel – but there, to show us again of the love and God.

Again – as they have done and do throughout their lives.

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