

Dear Friends,

Recently I was outside doing some work on the edge of the lawn which, on the face of it, is not the most exciting of jobs. I was pulling out the stray bits of grass which had got stuck in the path. They had gradually grown around and were in danger of obscuring it. In undertaking this routine maintenance there was a sense of order and well-being of the part I'd done.

As I looked at it afterwards, I found myself reflecting on how this interacted in our life as disciples. There are times where we need to be purposeful in bringing our lives before God and being honest about where we are. There is a sense of the act of edging the lawn which represents an increased sense of order at the end of it. God brought order when the world was created. Jesus was sent to the world and taught using many parables and metaphors linked to creation. The sending of the Holy Spirit is the action of God in the world today, sweeping through places and bringing a new beginning from where we are. All these may be relevant in their differing ways to where we are as followers of Christ.

As the grass was stripped away from between the parts of the path, I was reminded of a song, 'when the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come.'¹ This song, written by Matt Redman, had many resonances in differing ways with the garden, although it was not written with that in mind! When the grass is stripped away, the whole of the original path is seen once again. We can simply come before Jesus with no barriers in the way. We can be at one with God, in the world God created and recognise the significance of the Holy Spirit in shaping something new once again.

The chorus is 'I'm coming back to the heart of worship and it's all about you, Jesus.' When we strip everything away, we come back to God who is at the heart of our worship. We worship Jesus who died and rose again for all people to bring new life. The heart of our worship is to be at one with God through Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will all find our place of being at one with God in different ways. It may be in the place we'd expect, or it may be in the times of edging the lawn! Jesus will meet us where we are, whatever we are doing in the world, whether it's in the big things or in the things that seem very functional and mundane. We need to be open to the Holy Spirit doing something new, even if it is when we are going about the routine everyday tasks. God will be revealed as something is stripped away, and we will be at one with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit once again.

As we go about our daily lives in the coming days, let's be open to finding God in the everyday parts of life. As the complexities of life are stripped away, and we simply come to God, we may be surprised where we find God in Jesus but in being open to the Holy Spirit new things may emerge.

God bless,
Chris

¹ Singing the Faith 437, 'When the Music fades' by Matt Redman, 1997.