

The Jesus Way

The Way of Love

John 14 v 6

I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me

**For you will show me the path of life, fullness of joys in your presence the
delights at your right hand forever**

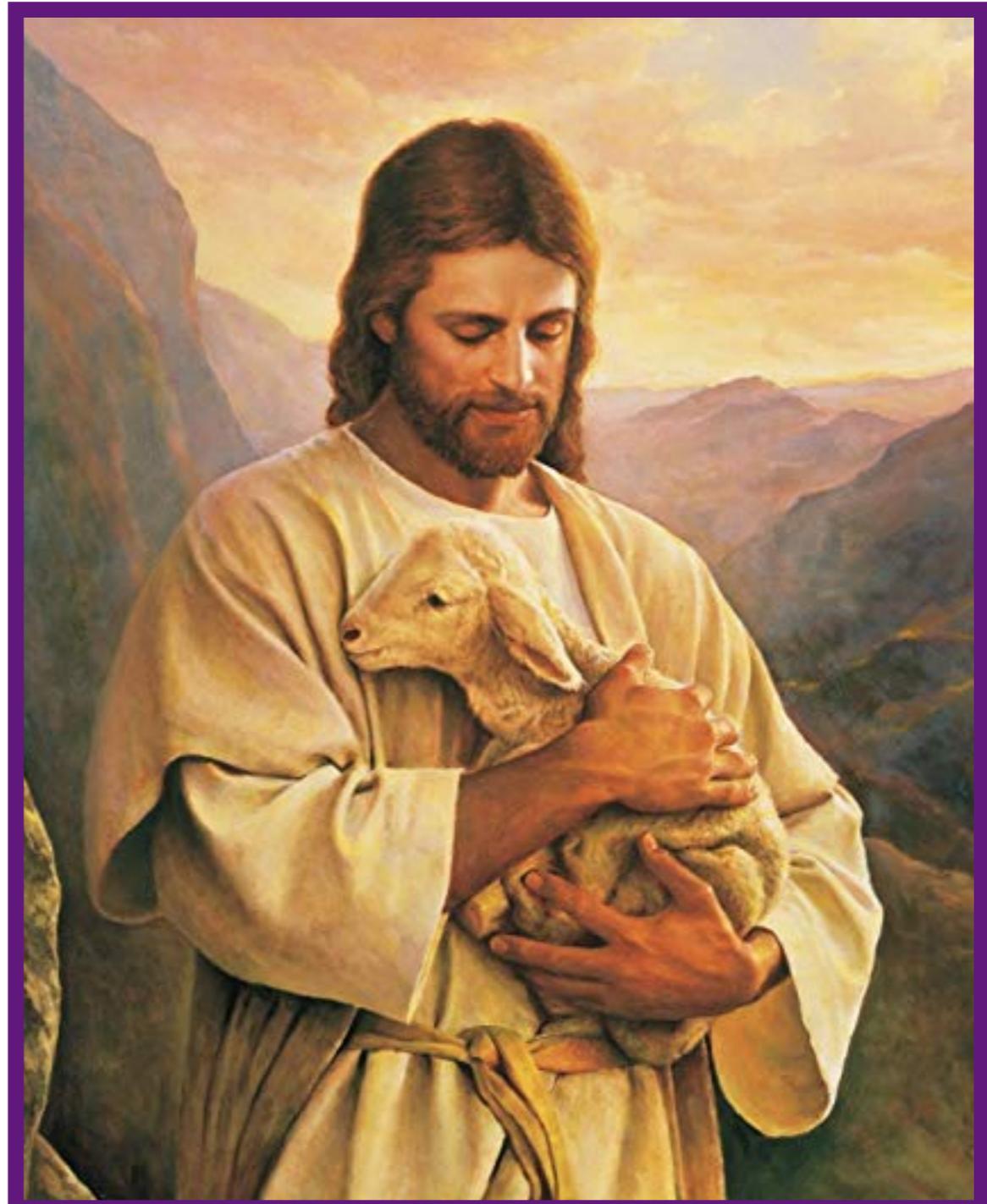
Psalm 16

Walking the Jesus way - the way of love

I don't seem to be able to get beyond this its what Jesus is doing in me and working in me, and I find I can only speak out of what he is doing.

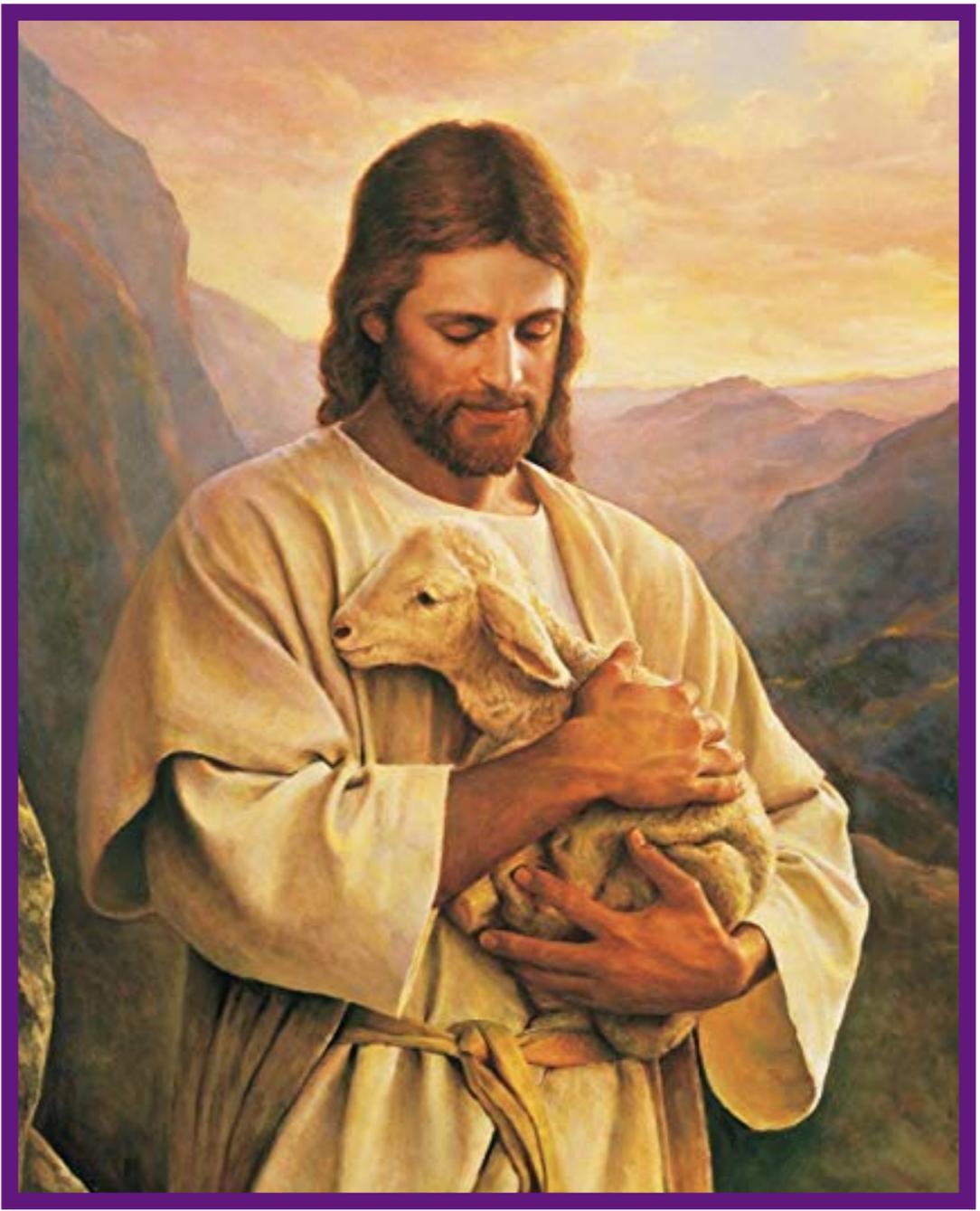
Not that I am there yet, its a walk

We talked last time about the call to tend and feed from John 21, to allow Jesus to tend and feed us and for us to then tend and feed others. We talked about it being Jesus role to carry, not ours hence the picture of the shepherd carrying the sheep



**So how are we doing with letting Jesus tend us? How are we doing letting him feed us?
How are we doing with tending others, feeding others but not carrying them ?
Relinquishing them to Jesus, relinquishing situations to Jesus and letting him carry
them ?**

**I want to talk about an aspect of this today which may seem quite negative but it is real
for me at their moment**



This call to love, to tend to feed - what about those who don't make it easy for us to love, tend and feed them?

Those who I find difficult to love, those who are antagonistic to me, those who oppose me, those who make me feel defensive, those who I feel don't like me, those who are trying to deceive me, those who are just very different to me? How do I love them?

This has been a real challenge to me for a while now with various people I am close to or am with regularly.

The answer is that I want to love them to be able to tend them but I find it very difficult When my ideas, offers of help, suggestions are rejected how do I feel? I feel rejected, lost, ashamed of my ideas, regret - wish I hadn't bothered, embarrassed

This has made me realise how much I crave affirmation - its a big thing for me Also I am a huge people pleaser - I want people to be happy and basically to be pleased with me because I need this affirmation. It's like a drug

Brings us back to what Richard has been saying about knowing our identity in Jesus This is something I have needed to revisit (and probably should never have left)

Letting Jesus tend me and feed me at the moment is reflecting on who I am in him

I am his daughter

I am loved

I am beloved

I am delighted in

I am important to him

I wrote this next bit before Richard spoke last and Bernadette shared about building on a foundation of love.

Who I am in Jesus absolutely must be central to me. It needs to be the foundation stone from which everything else in my life flows. As I said this is the tending and feeding which Jesus is doing in me - these truths need to be dug deeply into my life, they need to be built around and become my secure base. The ground of my being. Otherwise if that foundation stone or cornerstone is not there, that's when everything else comes tumbling down.

I will react

I will over react

I will under react

I will be unkind

I will retaliate

I will be angry, frustrated, disappointed, guilty stuck in a downward spiral.

Only when I am secure in who I am in Jesus only when he is my cornerstone can I cope with the negative behaviours of others without it draining me, or dragging me down. The only way for me to enable this is to give time to letting Jesus tend and feed me and letting him carry the rest.

E.g awake in the night with lots of thoughts around a situation at work and people involved. I could not put it down, kept trying to hand it over but just couldn't and called out to God. I had an immediate image in my mind of the armour of Ephesians 6 - this was how I saw it

I imagined putting on the

**helmet of salvation - protecting my mind, knowing who I am in Jesus, I am saved, I am His, first and foremost he thinks I was worth dying for
breastplate of righteousness - I am covered by Jesus own righteousness and am made right with God, I am protected there is nothing to fear. Gods righteousness ie his presence covers me**

**belt of truth - Jesus loves me, just as I am, he sees all and knows all. I can trust him
feet fitted with the gospel of peace - my readiness and deep desire for love and peace and not stress and angst is known to God he will enable it
sword of the Spirit - I saw this as the Holy Spirit going ahead of me cutting through the negatives, dealing with it all so that I don't have to
shield of faith - the ability to rest behind Jesus and let him carry it all**

After this it was amazing because it all lifted and I slept.

The next day work was like a different place - the Holy Spirit had indeed cut through

Practically how do I manage when there is antagonism or rejection or just negativity?

Pray for them - those involved

Pray for a deep and genuine love for them

Pray for a revelation of who they really are - wait and lean into Jesus see what he says about them.

Pray - ask for the eyes to see their beauty, their vulnerability, ask for compassion

Pray - for opportunities to reflect their beauty back to them

Be prepared to show my vulnerability, my weakness

Imagine them close to Jesus, pray for his blessing on them and for his kingdom to come in their life

This I have found (when I do it) frees me to be kinder to tend and to feed and to love.

Jean Vanier
Accepting People

The belief in the inner beauty of each and every human being is at the heart of L'Arche, at the heart of all education and at the heart of being human. As soon as we start selecting and judging people instead of welcoming them as they are with their sometimes hidden beauty as well as their frequently more visible weakness, we are reducing life, not fostering it. When we reveal to people our belief in them, their hidden beauty rises to the surface where it may be more clearly seen by all

Mother Teresa

Jesus fill us with yourself. May every person I come into contact with feel your love in their soul. May I leave your fragrance everywhere I go. We are becoming more like God, less of me and more of you. Your kingdom come. Our faith is not about a ticket to heaven and a license to ignore the problems on earth. Our faith is about bringing Gods kingdom on earth

‘Jesus said I am the way the truth and the life’

The Jesus Way

**The way of love - it is foundational to who we are, we are born in love
Knowing we are truly, truly loved and beloved and loved even more- thats the base -
our call is reflecting this same love**

**The way is not easy - Thomas ‘ put your finger into the wounds’
its often not nice, its messy - but its who we are called to be, often involved in the
wounds of others**

**There will be massive wounds for us to tend with Jesus, we live in a wounded world - in
order to do this we must be sure of our ground the ground and foundation of our being
- born in love**

So as he tends and feeds us we can lightly tend and feed others