

Devotional blog - Kan

Mark 6:7-13

Seeing our country staging world class sports events such as the Euro 2020 at Wembley and World Championship Tennis at Wimbledon, we can't help but feel the vibes of coming together, cheering, celebrating and dreaming amid increasing cases of the delta variant.

For those who win the match, it's a great joy to the players. For supporters, the players' joy is multiplied to million of fans across the nation. However, for those who lose the match, their regret undoubtedly stirs up multitudes of disappointment, anger or even resentment among their nation.

Do we have to polarise ourselves into two sharply contrasting groups of winning and losing in order to experience exuberant joy? I wonder.

As a family of four, we often have heated debates on various things as we see life around us from very different perspectives. But when we come together at meal time, the round dinning table serves as a place where we are all equal and valued.

No doubt that food is a key element to unite us when we are all hungry. And we are assured that our hunger will be fed regardless of our different values around this table. Moreover, when food is eaten, along comes the conversations and laughter that signifying the relationship ties between us as family is strengthened once more to give us love and exuberant joy.

It is true for many families, and it is also true for the people of God at the Communion. As wine is poured and bread is broken, we understand more fully what it means to be invited to the Heavenly Banquet with the Lord. With that knowledge and understanding, these shape what we do and say here and now as the people of God on earth as in heaven.

Therefore, we see in Mark 6:7-13. Jesus sends out his disciples in pairs with authority to proclaim God's kingdom invitation in different villages. Verse 12-13 tells us the result: "So they (the disciples) went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them." The results are exactly what Jesus has foretold. More people come into the fold of God's transforming love that has changed their life stories regardless their background and understanding. In God's love, everyone is filled with his exuberant joy according to his/her need.

Look around us, who is missing out on the experience and the foretaste of the Heavenly banquet that brings forth conversation, laughter and the exuberant joy of a renewed relationship with God and others? Who is longing for a harmonised love where contradictory views are being held within? Who is willing to be sent as God's messengers with authority to deliver his Kingdom invitation? Would that be you?

As Clare Stainsby writes in a communion hymn,

"Come my table is a meeting place,

here I'm waiting, ready for you.

Come and share, you are invited.

Come, beloved, I chose you."

At God's table, I believe it is a round table- we don't take sides, all are welcome and all are invited to experience his exuberant joy where life is nurtured and flourished.

Don't forget the ball that the football players is chasing after, it's round too.

May God bless you and may his joy fill you heart to love and be loved beyond measure. Amen.