Daily Encouragement – 18th November

Matthew 21 v.18-22

Early in the morning, as He was on His way back to the city, He was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then He said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!”

Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” they asked. Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, “Go, throw yourself into the sea, and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

The preacher spoke, mentioning he had been reading from Charles Spurgeon, “We must pray believing”, “and not hoping” I added in my mind. This thought remained with me over the next fortnight. We were then to go up to Cumbria to our niece’s Winter wedding. I heard people speak of their hopes: hoping it would not be cold (which it was), and hoping it did not snow (which it did), and hoping the wedding would go well (which it did). Sometimes your hopes come true, sometimes not. But to pray believing.

After the wedding, we were fortunate to have extra days to enjoy the Lake District. One day we walked a path next to a field of sheep. One ewe had produced two lambs; one black, one white. Both were immobile laying in the field. This was it. I prayed and in time one moved and stood up. Marvellous! But the other remained lifeless on the ground. We waited, but eventually moved on. Later, we passed the field heading home, and there we saw, both lambs frolicking in their field. We were so pleased, but in my mind I thought about hoping, and I thought about Jesus saying, if you believe you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.

*Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you that you always hear our prayer. Always know our hearts desire. So we pray you will give us wisdom in our praying, align our wills with Yours, and see Your Kingdom come and Your will being done, knowing You work all things together for good for those who love You. Amen*

Andrew Jones

