

Reflection for the Week: 26th July to 2nd August, 2020

Food for Thought

When I returned from church today I listened to the radio while making lunch. I don't very often listen to *The Food Programme* but the interview with Julian Metcalfe was fascinating.

Julian Metcalfe is the co-founder of *Pret A Manger* and more recently, *Itsu*, the affordable Japanese restaurant. The guiding philosophy is 'fast food as fresh food', which is probably a gross simplification. To dwell on this guiding philosophy, however, is to miss the point.

Why am I writing about this? Because listening closely to Mr Metcalfe was an education in passion.

These are some of the phrases he used to explain why he is encouraging the British public to expand their gastronomic experience and discover *life beyond the sandwich*.

He described the *endless search and excitement* for a new food culture, the *unrest* which accompanied the search, the *lack of satisfaction* with regard to development and pushing the boundaries, the *commitment of people* to make the vision work – and to top it all – he was working on

Paradise Rice.

Mr Metcalfe was a highly convincing preacher. He believed in his vision and the product behind it. His life and work are dedicated to improving the public diet. Sweat, tears and graft are doubtless part of his on-going search.

This week we heard another set of Jesus' parables, including the merchant's search for the pearl of great price. When the merchant finds the pearl he sells *everything* to acquire it.

Is this pearl the one thing worth endlessly searching for? How exciting for the merchant when he finds it! Does the disposal of all other goods for this one pearl represent the achievement of the successful, focussed life?

Jesus was speaking about seeking and finding the Kingdom of God, a quest so urgent and important that all other things give way before it. Nothing compares with seeking and finding the way to God's Kingdom, and when we pursue it the search is accompanied by a *lack of satisfaction, unrest, commitment* and the vision of what might be in Christ.

We can spend our whole lives pursuing the wrong goals, or goals that are good but not the goals that Christ wants us to push towards. What are your goals and are they the goals that Christ has set for you?

I'm looking forward to *Paradise Rice* and not only in *life beyond the sandwich*.