



# **A Walk with Jesus**

St Padarn's

*Rev. 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

# Two Questions

Is there anything we would rather do as His followers?

Is there anything He would rather do as our Teacher and Lord?



# One Thread Chosen From Many

When Jesus meets, heals, speaks about children...

There are many other walks we can do with Jesus, but this is the thread today



# **Guided by Matthew's Story of Good News**

We are walking with Jesus from  
Capernaum to Jerusalem...

From Chapter 9 to Chapter 21...

A suggestion for homework: draw your  
own map of the journey

# Stop 1      CAPERNAUM      (9: 18-26)

## Responding to a Father's Cry for his daughter

The father throws himself on his knees in public because he has faith in Jesus.

### **Meditation:**

*Can we name a child for whom we have pleaded with Jesus on our knees?*

# Stop 2 Towns in Galilee (11:11-30)

## Children and the Kingdom of God

Children and little ones can be signs of the Kingdom of Heaven

“Yes, Father!”

### **Meditation**

*Can we allow children to be children, without shaping them in our own image?*



# **Stop 3 Tyre and Sidon (15: 21-28)**

**A Mother Pleads for her daughter**

What is going on here?

Who is inside and who is outside the Kingdom of Heaven?

Puppy Dogs, Crumbs and Faith

# Stop 4 Caesarea Philippi (17: 20)

## The Disciples Fail a Father and Son

Another father on his knees, but the disciples can't help. Jesus can and does.

Why did they fail? They lacked faith, prayer and fasting.

### **Meditation:**

*Have we begun to explore the depths of the prayer: "Thy will be done"?*

# Stop 5 Capernaum [again] (18:3)

## The Challenge to Change

This is all about us as followers (disciples) of Jesus. We need to change course because we make mistakes.

If we are ready to change, then becoming humble like a little child (having no status) is the direction of travel. Jesus travelled exactly this route.

### Meditation

*How much must we unlearn? Are we prepared to start again?*

# Stop 6 On the Beach (18:5)

## Welcoming a Child; Welcoming Jesus

We are still in the same place, but the call of Jesus has moved on.

How are we to change to come in line with Jesus? By welcoming one little one in His name.

### **Meditation:**

*On reflection how far might it be that we have been drawn closer to Jesus as we knelt to welcome a little child?*

# Stop 7 A Rocky Coastline (18: 6-9)

## Child Abuse is Abhorrent to God

Getting to grips with the ugly truth in particular cases that horrify us, but also with the ways in which church and society cause little ones to stumble.

### **Meditation:**

*Let us bring our broken hearts, guilt, contamination to the foot of the Cross of Jesus and seek God's forgiveness.*

# Stop 8 The Hills of Galilee (18: 10-14)

**Do not despise the least of these little ones**

Still in the same place but now looking at the hills and the sheep on them.

The one and the many...

Those we cannot see or help, and the angels who behold the Father's face

**Meditation:**

*Who is the one missing child, and who are the angels?*

# Stop 9 Across the River Jordan (19:13-15)

## Children Brought to Jesus

Now the disciples have a chance to practice what Jesus has shown them and taught!

They don't get it.

### Meditation

*How might we come between Jesus and Children?*

# Stop 10 The River Jordan (19:14)

## Seeing Children as Signs of the Kingdom of Heaven

Still at the same place, but Jesus moves us on. He blesses children, and reminds his followers that they are signs for them.

### Meditation:

*How far are we willing to admit that the Kingdom of Heaven is always, only in unexpected and unpromising signs?*

# Stop 11 Jerusalem (21: 12-16)

## Interpreting Children's Cries

Children shouting and Jesus responding with "Yes!"

Psalm 8 and the surprise it reveals.

### **Meditation:**

*What difference does it make to listen to and receive children in the Name of Jesus?*

# Journey's End or The Beginning?

Once we have heard the call of Jesus, "Follow me" and started to follow, the walk with Him is life-long.

And the farther we go, the more we discover how little we know...

Often, we must go right back to the beginning and start all over again.

Just like many children's games!

For now, let's go quietly back to the place on this journey where we know we were most challenged or moved by Jesus.