

Now What? We look around

Last week I offered an image to help capture where I felt we needed to be, as we pause and reflected. Today, I want to offer an image that does not require us to reflect on past events, but the one that is before us today.

My love of Lego is well known, and if you are new to this place- I love Lego! I mean, I really love it. Building, taking apart rebuilding, and creating Star Wars Nativity Scenes, for the church, each year.

What I love about Lego-is the fact that while the packaging has a clear image of what can be built, and while the instructions list the precise steps that can be followed; I don't have to build what is on the box.

Plus, unlike many Lego fans, I feel no pressure to keep the model on a shelf for years- and never take it apart for another purpose.

For me, the point of Lego is not in the model on the shelf, but the process of building and discovering new uses for the bricks that some choose to keep on display and never explore new possibilities.

Lego bricks, no matter how specific a piece may look, have endless possible uses; the same piece that is used in one creation is equally at home in another.

A couple of weeks ago, I was speaking with a fellow lover of Lego and a fellow Sci-Fi nerd about my wee collection of Star Wars and Formula 1 Lego. Now to save you all a fascinating (but nerdy) rundown of our conversation, I ended up with his plans to turn one of my Lego Star Wars craft into another craft from my third favourite Sci Fi show called Firefly.

I took the bricks that previously been used to build one thing (that brought me joy) into a new thing (that also brought me joy).

Now the great thing about Lego, as I said before, is that endless possibilities that exist; and as such there is a particular image I want you to hold onto- that is, the pile of bricks you see before me.

Within this pile of bricks exist countless possible builds; these pieces could build many models. Sure, there are models that cannot be built, simply because don't the pieces that we need; and we cannot change that. But what we can build is a model from the pieces we have before us.

How?

Now, I am going a wee bit nerdier at this point.

There is an app called *Brickit*, which scans the Lego bricks laid out before us, and then it not only tells me what I could build, but it also shows me the instructions. This app allows me to work with what I have before me, rather than dreaming and wishing for pieces that I do not have.

Yet, if I sit and lament the pieces that I don't have; you know what is built?

Nothing.

The Lego blocks simply sit and gather dust.

Nothing gets built.

Or, we take stock of what we have and create something with them.

So, I want you to hold on to the image of Lego, as we will revisit that later.

But for now, I want to draw your attention to a key aspect of our Gospel reading this morning, which is a part that most people, I suspect, fail to notice. Which is hard, as there are only 68 words.

"While they were eating together".

Notice that?

That first communion occurred in the context of a meal, but not just any meal, but the Passover; yet still a meal though.

Jesus did not clear the tables and then set up something different, did he? Nope, it was "*while they were eating*" Feeling however they were feeling, talking about whatever they happened to be talking about. Not separate from their lives, feelings, words, or actions (Judas, I am looking at you mate); but in the midst of all they had going on, and who they all were at that very moment.

For us, it is the same.

Taking communion when you have had a great week, or Saturday, is often taken from a posture of thankfulness, or Joy.

Taking communion after a bad week, or in a time of pain or grief is often taken from a posture of reaching out or searching for Jesus.

Communion may look and sound the same each week, but it does not feel the same does it?

We take communion, in one sense, with what we have before us. We take communion with our hopes, our fears, our joy, and even our pain; and in doing so, we recognise that this all we can bring to Jesus- and that is all that he desires. We just bring what we have as a people and as a church.

We, in one sense, lay out our own Lego bricks and say, “this is us; this is all that I can bring”. Jesus’s reply to us is “that is enough to build with”. There is no piece too small, there is no piece that cannot be used to build God’s kingdom. There are no pieces too dusty, no piece too obscure, no pieces that cannot be built with.

Even the smallest, seemingly run of mill Lego piece has a purpose. Not all Lego pieces are visible in a build, but all are essential! In fact, do you know what the most essential pieces are in any Lego build- the pieces that provide strength and a foundation- they are always hidden, but always there.

Yet, sometimes it can be difficult to see what can be built, so first, like with the Brickit App I mentioned, we need to know what we have to build with. In doing so, we will be surprised by what we already have; and we can focus on that, rather than dreaming about other Lego pieces that other people have,

So, last week’s answer to the question, “what’s next” was “We pause”.

This week’s answer to What’s next?” “We look around”.

So, let’s look around and we see what have to build with, shall we? Let’s look at our context, and what The Lord has given us to build with.

Obviously, we have this space, open again for worship; yet it sits empty during the week. What else could fill this space? What other sacred opportunities can we find?

We now have the Fellowship area which could be used during the week, how can bless others with this space.

Our church numbers continue to grow and we now number over 61 people as regular attendees over both services, and another 35 at UkeChurch.

We have an amazing wee morning tea vibe going- I love getting home after 12, because of all the conversation taking place after 10.

We still have the Good News to proclaim.

The Lord has not called us to stop.

The Lord has not left or forsaken us.

The Lord has led us this far and would not have done so if there was not a plan for our future.

The Lord has provided in the past and will continue to do so.

Just as we can build with the Lego pieces, The Lord can build with what we have. The Lord does not sit around thinking, “Well, if only they had this or that”, or “If only they added a coffee machine, then I would build with them”.

Just as Jesus gathered with his disciples, just as they were, Jesus gathers with us.

In doing so Jesus tells us that we are enough, because He is enough.

The Holy Spirit is already with us, around us and in us!

These are our Lego bricks!

This is what we have to build with, and we cannot simply disregard them as “*not enough to build with*”.

Do you know why?

Because the Lord, the maker of Heaven and Earth, is our creator and he desires to keep creating with us?

But more on that, next week.

Amen