

People Heaven & People Hell!

Acts 11¹⁻¹⁸; [Psalm 148; Revelation 21¹⁻⁶;] John 13³¹⁻³⁵

Love one another [John 13³⁵]

If I get a chance I like to watch *Saturday Kitchen* with chef, James Martin. One of the features of the show is that the 'celebrity' guest is asked about their *Food Heaven* and their *Food Hell*.

What would yours be?

(My choices: *Heaven* a blue steak and *Hell* a Taiwanese buffet!)

Peter, in the reading from Acts has a vision of his food hell - all foods that, for him as a Jew, were as welcome as a ham sandwich at a Barmitvah or a pork pie at a Mosque! God tells him in his dream that he should eat all these things the the Old Testament forbids.

The point being made to Peter is that non-Jews can be Christians (and the decision would soon be made that they didn't have to convert to Judaism first).

After the third seeing of this vision, three men appear from Joppa - God told them where to find Peter and prepared the way for Peter to be willing to do something he would not have been before the vision.

What was happening as the Christian community was emerging from a sect of Judaism into the Church was not comfortable for some - the only real response was that of Peter: **who was I that I could hinder God.**

Do you think we could play a game of *People Heaven* and *People Hell*? People you really like to spend time with and people you would rather spend no time at all with!

Christians have to love one another as Jesus loved them!

Jesus says to the disciples that he isn't going to be with them - but that they should still treat each other as if he was!

The difference between *Saturday Kitchen* and the Kingdom of God is that Saturday Kitchen functions as a democracy - people vote for heaven or hell. In the Kingdom of God we are judged by absolutes - and (once we are forgiven people) how much we choose to love and then live out that choice is one of those absolutes!