

Not Complicated!

Isaiah 40^{12-17,27-end}; [Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 1^{11-end}] Matthew 28¹⁶⁻²⁰

*I am with you always, to the end of the age.
[Matthew 28²⁰]*

I struggle when I am told that the Trinity – albeit a theological shorthand, never explicitly mentioned in the Bible – is a difficult concept. It isn't! It describes how we experience God, the one God at the centre of the Christian faith.

Perhaps the command, **go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in(to) the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, helps us. Certainly, we take note that **name** is singular – they are one. But then perhaps we should note that when Jesus was baptised the same three were involved – Jesus was physically baptised, the Father affirmed him when he said, ***This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased***, after the ***Spirit of God descended like a dove***. Together, yet separate; the same, yet different!

It is something we experience, something that we accept, but we don't need to understand it or even be able to explain it. It is simply an expression of our own arrogance that leads us to believe that we could or should!

Isaiah warns us that God is God and details those things that help us know who we are. After reminding us that we didn't create the world, the prophet goes on to say:

- ✘ **Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counsellor has instructed him?**
- ✘ **Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice?**
- ✘ **Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?**

The difference between God and the whole of human society is summed up:

- ✘ **All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.**

The point of going over this isn't to make us cower before God or to think of ourselves as worthless, but to recognise the majesty of God.

Even the disciples were a little hesitant – a better translation of the Greek *ἔδιστασα* than **doubt**. Perhaps, after their abandoning Jesus at his greatest trial, they had reason to be hesitant? Nevertheless, the appropriate response was that of **worship** and that was the right of the one to whom **all authority in heaven and earth [had] been given**.

This experience of the One God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit leads to two things:

- ✘ The strength of the God who rules the universe and who **does not grow faint or weary** is there for us and keeps us going.

I can never read this passage without having in mind the interpretation offered by Corrie Ten Boom who, as child, was in a family that sheltered Jews in Holland and knew the worst effects of the Nazi response to that. She pointed out that there is a reverse aspiration in this passage – that we walk, run and then fly. But she points out that God is with us at the best of times when we **mount up with wings as eagles**, as he is when things aren't quite so good and we can only **run and not be weary**. But the real promise is that we **shall walk and not faint** – that God will always give us the strength we need to keep going.

That is the same as Jesus' promise, **I am with you always, to the end of the age**. In that strength we can then do what is commanded from us.

- ✘ **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**. Having made them we **baptise them and teach them to obey everything [Jesus] commanded**.

If this command was to stay where you are and chat with your friends the Church of today would have no difficulty in obeying – it would excel. But the command is two-fold – to **go** and to **make disciples**. You don't have to go far, but it is every Christians' responsibility and duty to move towards others and introduce them to Jesus, to the forgiveness he offers and the hope that he inspires- for them to become as much a follower of Jesus as you are!

God the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is with us and God the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit goes with us as we obey the command to be and make disciples. We don't have to understand it – we have to experience it!