

The First Disciples

If you're sitting comfortably, then I'll begin.

In heaven, the Trinity had finished their breakfast and were sitting down around their round table, discussing their latest plans. Jesus had volunteered to go down to earth and tell everyone about themselves. The Holy Spirit had agreed to alert the prophets and people to give them advance warning that Jesus was coming, but there were still a few details to be sorted out about who was going to carry on passing the message on.

The Father and the Holy Spirit were having a bit of an unholy row. The Father said that he had decided that the disciples needed to be clever, bright people who he could talk to in words of one syllable, and who would understand what he was saying, as opposed to people who needed to be talked to in half syllables. The Holy Spirit said that she wanted to have sensitive receptive souls, who prayed and meditated regularly, it was so much easier to reach them and get the message through to them.

Through all this discussion, Jesus sat very quietly. Eventually the Holy Spirit noticed that Jesus wasn't taking any part in the discussions.

'No' he said, 'All the people you have decided on so far seem to me to be rather boring. I want to have people I can be friends with, people I can trust, and people who can be friends with everyone else. I'm just going to go out for a walk.'

It was a long time later that he reappeared, but the Father and the Holy Spirit were pleased to see that he looked a lot happier than when he left. The Father spoke,

'We're sorry that we weren't listening to you as well when we were having our discussions, we were so busy listening to ourselves, that we weren't listening to each other. We're very sorry.'

'That's alright' said Jesus 'I have just been on a long walk down the avenue of time, and I have seen some really lovely people that I would like to help me. Do you think you could come and have a look too?'

The three of them set off down the avenue of time together and stopped when Jesus began to point out a few people.

The Father and the Holy Spirit began to take note of the people that Jesus wanted to help him, but as he pointed out more and more of them, they began to look at each other. Eventually the Holy Spirit said a little timidly,

'Um, do you really think these are the right people to help you. I mean, I have been trying for years to get through to them, without much success. I am not sure that I can be of much help preparing them for you. They aren't very good at listening to me. They much prefer to spend their time talking to me, and not listening to the answers. Don't you think we could have someone else?'

When Jesus didn't look as if he was going to be deterred by this practical consideration the Father decided to try and be a little bit more blunt.

'These aren't the most intelligent of people you have chosen. There are fisherman, tax collectors, fighters, dreamers. Take Peter over there, not only is he rather a coward, but he does have a tendency to rather put his foot in it!'

'Yes, I know that,' said Jesus 'but just look at his heart, and his capacity to love and give.'

'Well, look at James and John then, they have terrible tempers, and still need their mother to stick up for them.'

'I know' said Jesus, 'But when they find a cause see how they stick with it. Yes, alright there was a momentary lapse here and there, but you have to admit they are very determined.'

'How about Thomas then, not only has the Holy Spirit not been able to get through to him at all, I am not sure that even you could convince him of anything.'

'But when he is convinced, he is convinced, isn't he.' replied Jesus

As the Father and the Holy Spirit sighed, Jesus carried on,

'I know, I know they are not at all what either of you would wish, I know you don't think they are very promising material, but I think all they need is a bit of love, and they can do anything. I think we have enough love to make them the greatest of people, but real people that everyone can identify with and believe they to can be like. Those are the people we really need.'

The Father and the Holy Spirit looked at each other again,

'I suppose you are right really. We've been having a look at the people who become our worshippers after this lot. They look to be just like the Disciples you have chosen, I guess you need these to lead them, I doubt whether they would listen to dreamers or the intellectuals, even if they could understand them. You're right, carry on then, we will do the best we can to prepare them for you, but we can't guarantee anything!'

'I'm sure they will be alright, really,' said Jesus 'It's my life that is going to depend on them!'

The Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus linked arms and walked back along the avenue of time.

'We had better get to work right away. There is an awful lot to be done before we can save the world.'