

Daylight Dawns  
(Saturday 28th March 2009)

Holy Trinity Sloane Square.

### **Love, cherish and obey**

**Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything that is written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. I have not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.**

*(Joshua 1:6-9)*

Time and again the scriptures speak of 'righteousness', meaning a proper relationship between God and the community of God's people. Once again the promises that are made in marriage apply to everyone's relationship with God – we promise to 'love, cherish and obey'. To do so connects with the calling to us to be disciples. Many were known to be followers of Jesus but only a few were true disciples. In these few verses, being strong and courageous are the virtues that God commends.

So often I think I have to act in my own strength and then my courage is well founded. God is reminding his people that whenever they decide to take things into their own hands, disaster strikes.

It's no coincidence that Joshua is the man given this task of reminding the Israelites of their allegiance and obedience to God. His revelation is found in reading and meditating on the Book of the Law handed down from God through Moses; ours comes via Jesus himself. Joshua is the same name as Jesus. As Peter so wonderfully expresses it when asked by Jesus whether or not they want to continue to follow as disciples, 'Lord, to whom else can we go? You have the words of life' (John 6.68)

We have this word revealed in scripture and made flesh in Christ himself, with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

### ***Reflection***

***Be bold be strong ,for the Lord your God is with you!***