

## Acts 1 9-11 Reflection

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

“Jesus was taken from their eyes and hidden by a cloud.”

How often do we feel this happening in our lives? Jesus is there with us, in our thoughts and our ideas, His presence is almost tangible, it is a delight.

There are days when we feel that He has been taken away from us before our very eyes. We don't understand why this happens, why should Jesus leave us after being with us?

We feel deserted, we almost feel let down. What is worse is when we say our prayers, we feel that they are just words and that no one is listening.

This reading gives us hope not to give up on Jesus. He may be hidden from our eyes and the rest of our senses, but He has not gone from our hearts and he has not gone from our souls. Jesus is there but comes and goes from our senses.

The two men dressed in white ask the disciples “why do they stand looking in the sky?”

Even the disciples, with three years of being with Jesus and learning from Him, found it difficult to comprehend what was going on. These two men, we can assume angels are there to help them. They are not looking in the right place, they are looking up to the sky but they should be waiting for the gift that Jesus promised, the gift of the Holy Spirit. The disciples were only using their eyes to perceive Christ, they needed to wait for the Holy Spirit to dwell in and around them.

When we sometimes feel that Christ is not with us, or not listening, we need to remember the disciples and remember that even they didn't look in the right place at the right time. They had to wait for the promised gift.

Sometimes we have to wait to feel Christ's presence around us again, and sometimes we are just not looking in the right place. It is our perceptions that waver, not Christ. Christ is there with us but we may have to look in a different direction, or we may have to wait as we let our other senses come to the fore. When we look back, we can see that Christ has been there the whole time, it is us that have been blinkered in our approach to having Christ in our lives.

Christ is there in our good times and our bad. For some people, a quieter way of life due to the lock down has been an opportunity to feel Christ in a different way in our lives. For others, it feels as if Christ has let us down and that we are alone and

abandoned. Christ is with us, in our prayers, in the wonderful neighbour who checks in on us. Christ is working through that friend who makes that telephone call and that person who is praying for us in secret.

Lord, help us to find Jesus in all of our lives. Give us hope in our waiting, as the disciples had hope in the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name. Amen.