

Reflection for Saturday 8 May

The first reading for this morning's Mass from the Acts of the Apostles is about the work of visiting the churches in Derbe, Phrygia and the Galatian country by Paul and Timothy. But they are prevented by the Holy Spirit from evangelizing in Asia. We do not know the reason. We can only assume that the Holy spirit had other work for them to do in Macedonia which is near to Greece, which we read about in the last paragraph of the reading.

But notice the difference between the Church in Acts and the modern Church. We would probably have formed a committee to discuss the change of direction, but Paul called on the Holy Spirit and followed his direction after a Macedonian appeared to him in a vision, calling him to come to Macedonia. Paul then set out to go there and bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people.

What we see in this Church of the Acts of the Apostles is how differently the apostles worked from the way we do. I know the situation was not the same as ours. They were much more Spirit-led and the result of their labours was that many were converted to Jesus Christ.

We need the Church today to be Spirit-led and make the preaching and teaching of the Good News the number one priority. We all have a part to play in this work. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us with his presence and show us the way forward. Remember we are God's Easter people.

Roger Watson