

**2019-11-03 Sue Diggory**  
**All Saints**

**An empty wallet,  
A box of tissues,  
A foot washing photo,  
A bottle with a little water,  
A box of plasters,  
A white cloth,  
A rainbow,  
And a cross**

How I wonder can these things help us to think about how God wants to change us and transform us into people that are more like Jesus, people who are more like the Saints of old, people who reflect the characteristics that we have heard about from Jesus in our reading today.

### **An empty wallet**

If we have no money we are literally poor. We know we need help to survive because there are 'essential' things we need to buy, but if we are 'spiritually poor' we know that deep down we need God's help, and that we are dependent on him.

Admitting that we are 'poor' in relation to God is the first step we must take before we can happily ask for God's help and also to receive it.

### **Box of tissues**

If we are willing to admit that we have worries, we can be encouraged and supported. If we see others in need or bad things happening in the world, then we can grieve with those in need and take the action that God would want us to take, knowing that God will comfort us.

### **Foot washing**

Do you remember when Jesus washed the disciples feet? He showed what it meant to be meek and humble. This is so different from what we see about us in the world, but as we know Jesus often turned things upside down. In God's kingdom we are told the first will be last and the last first. Those who put the needs of others first are we know those who please God.

### **Bottle of water**

There's only a small amount of water here. This helps us to remember that people who want to do things God's way are not satisfied with compromise or half-measures. They want the bottle to be full, they want rest until they see God's kingdom come, they will keep praying and working for that change to come.

### **Plasters**

Those who are willing to bandage the wounds of others, or are merciful to others will find many hurting people that need help. Jesus says that who show mercy and are kind will receive mercy and kindness themselves.

### **White cloth**

White reminds us of purity, which is all to do with holiness. This reminds us that to put God at the centre, in the middle of all we do will help us to know him even better, and this will help us to become more and more like Jesus.

### **Rainbow**

A symbol of peace, of promise and of diversity. If we are people who are willing and wanting to make peace, if we are peacemakers Jesus says we will be called children of God, we will be part of the great patchwork of people that make up the family of God.

### **Cross**

We know Jesus was willing to go to the cross and suffer and that because of that it is possible for us to have a close relationship with God. We need to be willing like him to face difficulties and even persecution because the way we respond to opposition and have a very lasting effect on other people. We are not likely to have to die for our faith but the way we behave when things are difficult, the way we show love to those who taunt and tease us about our faith can make a very real difference.

As God's people we don't have everything sorted out, and the good news is that we don't need to. We just like the Saints of old are not perfect, no, we just need to be people who know their need of God, people who are willing to admit to being less than perfect, but people who are willing and wanting to be changed and challenged as we do our best to live the way we know God wants for us.

In reality we are being asked to live just as the Saints of old did, to live the way we know Jesus would want, so in reality nothing has changed down the

centuries and who knows one day in the future we might be remembered as a saint on All Saints Day!