



**“Look at the rainbow and praise its Maker;  
it shines with a supreme beauty,  
rounding the sky with its gleaming arc,  
a bow bent by the hands of the Most High.”**  
*Ecclesiasticus 43: 11-26*

You may recognise that these words are from the Ecclesiasticus reading from Prince Philip’s funeral last Saturday. We are told that he chose all the music, the readings; in fact, all aspects of the service himself.

After all the grown-up formalities, the starched uniforms and impeccable choreography of the procession, these simple words spoke of a childlike sense of awe and wonder at the power of God’s creation and at our place in it.

After all the words of sorrow and loss, these two lines bring us words of brightness and beauty; transformed into words of hope and of praise.

But this is not a reflection on that passage. It is not a reflection on the life of the man who chose it.

My favourite passage in the Bible is the story of the haemorrhaging woman\*. Hers too is story of sorrow and of loss that was transformed into brightness and beauty by choosing to be as close to Jesus as she possible could – *“If I could just touch the hem of his cloak...”*

But this is not a reflection on that passage. Nor is it a reflection of the woman who chose it.

It is a series of questions.

What is your favourite passage of the Bible? We all have many that we relate to at different times of our lives, but what is the one passage that connects you to that

childlike wonder and awe deep inside of you? What is the one go-to passage you hold in your heart?

During this time of pandemic and our own sorrows and loss we have had many talks and reflections, poetry and prose, shared stories but what is yours?

What little part of that Big Book brings a smile to the sides of your eyes when you hear those first lines, and transports you instantly to a different place? A place closer to God, closer to the history, closer to the story that is yours and mine in Christ.

You may think “I don’t have a favourite”; then lucky you – you get to think about many and perhaps even choose one today!

We can speculate about what our choices are and even why we chose them. But just for a moment don’t look too hard at that – allow yourself revel in the colours of the words, to spin like a little child at the *wonder of it all*.

Stop reading this and go to your Bible and find the story (hint – if you know the story but not quite where to find it – Google it!) Read the story. Think about it. Pray with it. Find yourself in it. Come closer to the word of God.

Look at the rainbow.

*\*The story of the haemorrhaging woman can be found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.*

*Matt 9: 20-22*

*Mark 5: 24-24*

*Luke 8: 42-48*