

Sermon Title: The Foolishness of God

- Introduction
 - Welcoming William, Wolfheart, and Melissa for baptism.
 - Water as a symbol of life and death.
 - Baptism signifies both life and death.
- Biblical References
 - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25: The foolishness of the cross.
 - John 2:13-22: Jesus cleansing the temple.
- Exploration
 - God's ways are not always clear or spectacular.
 - The paradox of the cross: foolishness to some, wisdom to others.
 - Jesus absorbs the power of death and offers forgiveness and mercy.
 - Jesus accompanies us in our weakness and suffering.
- Significance of Baptism
 - Baptism signifies participation in Christ's death and resurrection.
 - The world views the cross as foolishness, but it embodies the power of God.
 - Baptism represents drowning in God's love and rising to new life.
- Conclusion
 - William, Wolfheart, and Melissa are invited to embrace the wisdom of God's foolishness.
 - May they find strength in God's weakness and freedom in God's love.

Discussion Points / Points to Ponder:

1. How do you reconcile the paradox of the cross being both foolishness and wisdom?
2. Reflect on instances where God's ways seemed foolish or counterintuitive but ultimately brought about wisdom and redemption.
3. In what ways does baptism symbolise both death and life? How does this resonate with your understanding of Christian faith?
4. Consider the significance of Jesus' presence in suffering and how it relates to our experiences of weakness and vulnerability.
5. Discuss how embracing the message of the cross challenges societal norms and expectations of power, status, and self.
6. How can we apply the concept of God's foolishness and weakness being greater than human wisdom and strength in our daily lives?
7. Reflect on the imagery of being "drowned in the love of God" and how it transforms our understanding of freedom and abundance in Christ.

Alternative Questions:

1. How does the symbolism of water in baptism reflect both life and death, as mentioned in the sermon?
2. The sermon draws parallels between the "foolishness of the cross" discussed by St. Paul and the concept of baptism. How does this comparison deepen our understanding of the Christian faith?
3. Reflecting on the statement, "God's ways are not always clear or spectacular," how does this challenge common expectations regarding faith and spirituality?
4. Discuss the idea that Jesus' crucifixion represents both an act for humanity and an act with humanity. How does this dual nature of the cross influence our perception of suffering and redemption?
5. In what ways can the message of the cross be perceived as counterintuitive or foolish to society? How does this challenge societal norms and values?
6. Considering the closing message for William, Wolfheart, and Melissa to "discover the wisdom of God's foolishness," how can this wisdom be applied practically in their lives and in the lives of other believers?