

## **A Reflection on Isaiah 2:1-5**

I am one person, among many people;  
One of the many peoples, among the nations.  
What can I see on the mountain of the Lord?

I am one person, set in a family;  
One of many families, around the world.  
What can I hear on the mountain of the Lord?

I am one person, in the fellowship of a church,  
One of many churches, sharing faith in God.  
What can I take from the mountain of the Lord?

If I am just one person, how can the nations be my concern?  
If I have not learnt, how can I see and understand the light?  
If I am not moving forward, how can I walk God's path?  
If I have no voice, how can I share the Word?

**I**, am not alone.  
Many people are my neighbour, many families my friends.  
Through the food on my table, the heat in my home,  
The way I travel and the games I play,  
I have relationships with many nations.  
**I**, become **we**.

It is **we** who are on the mountain of the Lord.  
**We**, who raise your name above the idols of the world;  
**We**, who hear your teaching to go from this place;  
**We**, who don't leave your presence,  
but who through you move out into the world.

For you are the living Word,  
You, who are not above us, but is beside us and in us.  
You, who are our brother, our neighbour, our family,  
You, who move among the nations,  
the one who makes the paths we walk.  
**We**, are your people,  
And **we** are not alone.

## An act of confession and commitment based on Isaiah 2:1-5

Acknowledging that we are in God's presence and not alone in the world, we ask what it is that God expects of us.

We hold no sword or spear, and are (we hope) not in dispute with our neighbour. But we can not prepare the land and sow God's Word, or share in the responsibility for collecting the harvest, unless we too put down the things that we hold in our hands which clutter our lives, or the tools that we don't use wisely or in God's name.

We all have something in our pockets, a coat on our backs, something that will give us an image of those things obscuring our vision of God, blocking the path we walk with Jesus, or misuse by ignoring the Spirit's guidance.

Just have a rummage in your bags and pockets now, not for a sword or spear but for whatever happens to be there... [pause]

- a pen that hasn't written the letter a friend needs to read;
- a phone that hasn't made the call you promised a neighbour;
- a shopping list that doesn't consider those that produce our food;

Or if you are very tidy minded and have nothing else to hand

- lay your coat or jacket across your knee remembering that some are colder than we are.

And as we hold these things in our hand let us share this prayer of confession and commitment:

That which we hold,  
without having used it wisely as a gift from God;

**We return to your service.**

That which we think we own,  
without considering that your Son owned nothing;

**We return to your service.**

That which we have spoken,  
without remembering the Spirit in which we should speak;

**We return to your service.**

May God who loved the world  
so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
Make us holy to serve him in the world  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

**Amen.**