

Thursday 29th July 2021

Ez.36,8: "But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favour; you will be ploughed and sown."

Mt.20,11: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard."

How different it had all turned out from how it was meant to! Their plans, their confidence, their certainties, their hopes, their prospects – all lay in ruins. They had expected rich yields, but it came to nothing. Instead, their ways, for their sinfulness, had received judgment. And that was the mark of their failure.

But into this wound of the sin and failure of his people God pours the balm of grace, the promise of restoration.

Failure is not the end, but for God a means to the end – a people that shall truly be to the praise of his name, gracious and restorative in all their ways. Therefore, faith looks from failure (not: to, or for, failure!) to Christ, God's means of grace.

Lord, with us is often failure and confusion, but with you is grace and fulfilment. Strengthen our faith. Your name be praised. Amen