

there is something going wrong then conflict cannot be avoided. If there are real differences of opinion, there's a real clash of attitudes in a particular situation, then to pretend that that's not true is the worst possible thing. I think conflict needs to be out in the open, if it's actually there.

JB: There's an interesting phrase in the song *Abide with me*: 'Change and decay in all around I see'. Only in the Church do people automatically associate change with decay, and it's because of that couplet – it shows the power of hymns. But, also we have to deal with the fact that God has made it clear that the Christian faith is a dynamic thing, and we are not interred in a Victorian mausoleum by dint of being members of the Christian Church. We're into a sight of what is to come, and an experience of what is to come, and everybody whom Jesus met, he changed (with the exception of the Pharisees). Deaf people heard and blind people saw and folk who were marginalised felt they were welcomed. And unless change is an experience of our faith, we can't talk about faith.

Do some relationships get to the point where they are simply 'too broke to fix'? In the light of the teachings of Jesus, how does this relate to divorce and re-marriage?

JB: Some relationships have to break. It's a sad thing to say, but seen in the context of abuse, if you have been physically abused by your spouse, male or female, if you have been repeatedly sexually abused by your father, or your mother, then to continue in that relationship is to demean yourself and there has to be a break. And, while

divorce is something which is not encouraged by Jesus, and one might argue that the culture and the times were different then (and I think that is an interesting argument) I think that, occasionally one has to set against that the fact that there can be no resurrection unless there's death, and some relationships have to end so that people can live again.

NG: I think we need to hold on to the greatness of God, to the power of the Gospel and to the power of the Holy Spirit and that's what we have seen, time and time again, is the power of the Holy Spirit to revive dead or dried up marriages. Just to transform them.

JW: Some relationships you can see are actually destroying the people involved, so I think that, as Christians, what we are trying to do is to do that dual thing; is to hold up the picture of God's perfect will for people, as something that we can long for and work towards. And then, at the same time, deal really and lovingly and patiently with the actual relationships in front of us at the time. Some of which will be broken.

One example of fruitful good practice is South African, and in particular the 'Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' promoted by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Can we learn anything from these processes?

JW: I think one of the most important things to learn from that process is that the two go together. That reconciliation that is not based on truth can't be true reconciliation.

JB: In South Africa, the truth and reconciliation process is very interesting because the 'blacks' wanted