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Lindisfarne Lessons

I recently walked over to Lindisfarne by following the pilgrim posts that lead from the mainland to the island. The path can only be used when the tide is out. At first I was a bit hesitant to walk away from the main causeway as the posts took me close to the water's edge. In contrast to the apostle Peter, who stepped out of a boat on stormy seas, I did not feel ready for water-walking, even though the sea looked calm. When I realised that my sturdy boots kept my feet from slipping, my confidence quickly grew. However, soon the excitement of walking from post to post wore off.

I thought I knew a better way to cross over. As soon as I walked away from the posts, my walking boots got sucked ankle-deep into the pungent mud. I realized that the signposts were there for a good reason. If I wanted to cross over safely, I needed to stick to the posts even when the thrill of the new gave way to routine, boredom and fatigue. The Christian walk requires perseverance, humility and maintaining a clear focus...

When the tide came in a few hours later, the pilgrim posts still marked the way, but for now the opportunity to cross safely had passed, reminding me that the right timing is often as important as the right path. There is a time for reflecting and a time for acting, depending on life's current tide.