

16th November 2008

Sermon Notes

Global Mission 6

Jesus - A Blessing to the Marginalized
(Phil 2:7 - 'Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus')

We have been thinking about and studying Global Mission over the last few weeks.

In Genesis, the whole of creation was called to be fruitful (v28).
God chose Abraham to be a blessing to all nations (Gen 12: 3).
Joseph was used, not only to save his own family but other nations as well.
Jonah experienced God's love through dramatic circumstances (Jonah 4: 2).
Isaiah showed God and love as a light to the world (Isaiah 49:6).

Today we are looking at the ministry of Jesus especially to the marginalized – the insignificant, unimportant, despised, rejected.

The Jews expected God's promised Messiah would be a warrior king – one who would overthrow the enemy and release them from long years of tyranny and occupation.

Jesus own mandate for His ministry found in Luke 4 18:19. 'He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recover of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed'.

Reading from John 4 – Jesus meeting with the Samaritan woman and how this encounter changed her life.

Jesus entered a RESTRICTED AREA.

(Samaria region between Judea and Galilee because of differences in politics, race, customs and religion there was much had feeling between the Jews and the Samaritans) to the Jews it was a 'no go' area.

It was while he rested at a well Jesus met the Samaritan woman, He showed her RESPECT.

She came from a different culture, was a woman – a woman with a past.

He RECOGNISED her needs – spent time with her, listened to her.

He REASSURED her – did not condemn her.

He RESTORED her self image.

After her meeting with Jesus the Samaritan woman:

RETURNED home a changed person.

She RECOUNTED her experiences.

As a RESULT her neighbours wanted to know more.

They met Jesus for themselves and RESPONDED to his message.

As Paul said in Phil 2: 7 'Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus'.

What lessons can we learn from Jesus' encounters with the Samaritan Woman in exercising our own Christian Ministry? Who are the marginalised in our society? How can we show God's Love to those who feel unaccepted and loved?

REACHING OUT – Do we like to stay in our comfort zones, where we feel safe – rather than move into unknown territory? Can we put our Faith into action? (Hebrews 11). What are our 'no go areas? People we find it difficult to relate to?

RESPECTING OTHERS – Those different from us?

RECOGNIZING OTHERS NEEDS – Spending time, listening.

REASSURING – Encouraging

RESTORING SELF IMAGES – (Romans 15 1:2 we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbours for his good to build him up).

Are we concerned, as Jesus was in ministry and saving those who are lost?

Perhaps today we identify more with the Samaritan woman – feeling marginalised, misunderstood and alone.

Jesus said 'come to me, all you are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light' (Mathew 11: 28-30).

Jesus continues to minister to us today, bless us and change us if we will let Him.

'O let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and his Love
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your Soul
O let Him have the things that hold you
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you Whole (SOF 419).

As Paul says in II Cor 5:17 – If anyone is in Christ he is a New Creation, the old has gone, the new has come.

Like the Samaritan woman our lives can be transformed. This experience is not something we can keep to ourselves but need to return to our homes, neighbours, friends and share so that others may also receive Christ's blessing for themselves.

Romans 10:13-14 - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be Saved, How, then can they call on the one of whom they have never heard.

Questions for Small Groups

1. Read John 4:1-30, 39-43 and Phil 2:1-8.
2. Discuss who are the marginalized in today's society.
3. Discuss how we as a church can reach out to our communities.
4. Pray for one another.