

Time for God – Take 2

Purpose: To assist the congregation with further reflection on the theme of the Sunday service/passage.

Week beginning Sunday 19 January 2020 Come and see

Pray Thank God for the readiness of the early disciples to find out more about Jesus and for their willingness to speak about it to their friends and family and to encourage them to seek Jesus out too. Pray that we might be more willing to enquire more about Jesus and to share and invite as the likes of Andrew did long ago.

Read Read the passage (preferably in an easy to understand version). John 1:29-42

Background Following on from Jesus' baptism, some of John's followers are taken by his comments about Jesus (Behold the Lamb of God) and seek to find out more about him. Jesus notices them and invites them to come with him – come and see. As a result of spending time with him they become convinced that he is the Messiah, the Christ and they share their discovery encouraging family and friends to accompany them so that they too can see for themselves. Clearly, this is a pattern that ought to transcend time boundaries – it's something that ought to be part and parcel of Christian life and witness today.

Possible questions/points to consider

1. Sadly, many people, even if they have some interest in faith or spirituality don't see the Church as being for them. Many feel remote from us and perhaps you are among those who've had folk say "I didn't know I was allowed to come to Church" or "I thought it was just for members". This has been highlighted again with folk not realising that they could talk to the minister about a wedding or funeral. What practical steps can we take that might lower the hurdles and make it easier for people to "come and see"? What changes in attitude might be needed on our part to facilitate a change in perception?
2. Those of John's followers who went after Jesus obviously felt that it was worth their while looking into Jesus and finding out more about him. Are we as Christians as keen to find out more about Jesus? If not, what could we do about it? How realistic is it for us to expect others to enquire about Jesus if we ourselves are reticent? How might we recapture the enthusiasm of the early followers so that a) we are more likely to extend invitations to others b) to convey a positive, inclusive and welcoming message?
3. There was among John's followers a real expectation that God was going to be "doing something" in their midst, that the long promised Messiah was expected soon. How convinced are we that God is "doing something" in our midst in the 21st century? How can we make ourselves more alert of the ways in which God is at work and if they are not where we are concentrating our efforts how do we change so that we get behind them?
4. There is a difference between come to Church and come to Jesus – how do we ensure that we don't get so caught up in running a Church that we lose sight of the need to have a relationship with Jesus? How do we encourage others to come and see Jesus rather than just what we do as Church?
5. We are apt to shy away from speaking about faith/Jesus/God in case we are snubbed or rejected. That of course means that some people who might have shown interest don't get the chance. How can we have more confidence in our message (in Jesus) that we might be less reticent? Do we ourselves need to be more convinced about the worthiness of the gospel, that it really is GOOD news before we will consider sharing it with others? What steps might we need to take? How might we draw on Jesus' promises to with us, especially as we share the good news?
6. Do have a think about anything else that might have prompted a thought on Sunday.

Prayer: Lord, thank you that we have a wonderful message that is potentially good news for everyone and that Jesus is open to have us "come and see". Help us to be more confident in that and to be more willing to pass on his invitation to others believing that it really is good news we are passing on. Amen.