

Sunday 13th September 2020

The paper-version Service

***The church is meeting on paper, online
and on Sunday at 9.30am in the Building***



All of our services are online www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk but this weekly sheet captures our Sunday service for those without internet.

To Begin: Find a Bible. If safe, perhaps light a candle. Find a comfortable place and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it as you begin or read; or even sing, the modern song from this Sunday's Service set out below.



Opening Prayer: Father God, thank you that you are Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, glorious in majesty. We acknowledge our lack of goodness before the light of your holiness. Thank you that you come to us in love and through the cross of Christ offer us forgiveness. And thank you that you come to us in the power of the Holy Spirit to equip us for your service. Help us to hear your word today and put it into practice. **Amen**

Song:

Grace, what have you done?
Murdered for me on that cross
Accused in absence of wrong
My sin washed away in your blood
Too much to make sense of it all
I know that your love breaks my fall
The scandal of grace, you died in my
place, so my soul will live

The cross has taught me to live
In mercy, my heart now to sing
The day and its trouble shall come
I know that your strength is enough
The scandal of grace, you died in my
place, so my soul will live

Oh to be like you...

*Oh to be like you
Give all I have just to know you
Jesus, there's no one besides you
Forever the hope in my heart*

And it's all because of you, Jesus
It's all because of you, Jesus
It's all because of your love
And my soul will live

Death, where is your sting?
Your power is as dead as my sin

Oh to be like you...

Read: Luke 5:1-11.

What's Our Raw Material? (A summary of the talk given by Howard Wright).

Today, Jesus invites, Simon, his colleagues, and the crowd, including us, to be his apprentices and join in.

It begins with listening.

Simon listens to Jesus.

When telling

parables, Jesus

would use the

expression, *'If you*

have ears to hear,

hear!' He is

saying, come on guys, you have ears,

so listen – hear with your ears, your

minds, and hearts.



Jesus concludes the sermon on the mount with a story about hearing: Read, Matthew 7:24-27.

Simon listened and he acted upon what he heard.

Simon had been fishing all night. Fish in a lake typically feed in the shallows at night, during the day they retreat well out of sight and out of reach, into the deeper darker water. Simon was a professional fisherman, and probably a good one, he had his own boat and business partners. Simon knew about fish but this last night he has caught nothing. He is fed up, hungry with no food and nothing to sell, tired and ready for bed, but he needs to tidy up

and prep before heading home. So, he is sat fixing his nets ready for the next shift. But he listens...

How is our listening? Apprentices of Jesus listen to Jesus. Simon had all the necessary excuses to pay no attention to Jesus, but he did anyway.

In the story Mary and Martha in Luke 10, Martha seems rightly to be concerned about all the necessary jobs she must do for the arrival of visitors including Jesus. Mary, Martha's sister, does nothing, nothing at all the lazy so-and-so! But Jesus sides with Mary. Martha, he says, *'you are worried and upset by many things but only one is needed.'* Mary was not 'doing nothing', she was listening!

Jesus modelled this himself. He was the actual Messiah, the only person the world has ever actually needed, the only truly indispensable person who could save the world. Yet, he does not rush around solving all the problems. He takes time out to pray, often alone at night. His priority is listening to his Father with his ears, mind, and heart. Listening and acting. Jesus does what he sees the Father doing and He obediently joins in.

Are we making time to listen? I know we have so much to do; Jesus had so much he could do, Mary had so much to get ready, Simon needed to get home, a family to feed, but they all chose to listen.

Will we give time to listen to Jesus, to pray, to read his word, and share what we hear with others in our small groups, our family, friends, colleagues, and neighbours?

Simon listens and he joins in. He starts with small steps and having lent his ears; he now offers his boat as a preaching platform. When Jesus finishes his preaching, he asks Simon to go a step even further – put out into deep water and let down your nets!

Simon's response is great: Read verse 5. Simon lets go of his pride, risking others laughing at him, and sets off. He listens and acts – he obeys Jesus.

What might we have to let go of and risk for Jesus? First, we must listen, but then we must act.



The result is a miraculous catch, such a super abundance that help is needed. Just think of the wealth here. Early retirement beckons, you can dine out on these fish and this fish story for years. But Simon sees beyond the miracle to the miracle maker. He recognises the wonder and glory of who Jesus is and the lack of goodness in himself.

Jesus takes Simon, just as he invites us, and Simon does not settle for the trimmings, he is not satisfied with fish, when the whole buffet of abundant life is before him. Simon wants the whole thing that Jesus offers, he pulls the boat ashore, leaves it all behind and walks off with Jesus.

How many of us settle for the immediate, the obvious, the easy, when Jesus offers himself and a kingdom job? In the Sermon on the Mount mentioned earlier Jesus also said, *'Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.'* (Matthew 7:13-14)

Simon listens. He hears with his ears, his mind, and his heart; and he acts; in obedience he responds to the call of Jesus.

Apprentices listen – are we listening today? Genuinely hearing the voice of God in prayer and the Bible. Giving time and space for Jesus to speak.

And Apprentices act – are we acting obediently today.

It might take small steps, lending our ears and then our boats, but ultimately, like Simon, we want to be all-in, otherwise we risk missing out on all that God has for us.

Prayers: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

- Pray for this day, and the coming week
- Pray for the nations, their leaders, and peoples pray for justice, mercy, peace, and hope.
- Pray for individuals, for neighbours, for family and friends
- Pray for the Church



Collect for 13th after Trinity: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing to be declared over yourselves, COGS, the communities around us and our whole nation. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

The Notices: If you know of others who'd like to receive this, or you'd rather not receive it; or if you find yourself isolated and not able to get neighbours, friends or family to help, then ring Howard, 01420 563344.

Church Services: Sunday 9.30am with safety measures in place.

APCM: Our annual meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October, we are hoping to meet in the building with online access. We will be electing new churchwardens, Deanery Synod and PCC members. Please be praying for those God is calling – perhaps yourself!

If you're not sure whether you're on our **Electoral Roll**, please contact Matt.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers