



REAL GOD, REAL CHURCH, REAL LIVES

REAL CHURCH - Week 4.

Real Mission

These notes support the current sermon series; both of which are designed to help us focus upon God and to seek His will for our future as a Church. They can be used by individuals, two to three people or within a house group. A Lenten Toolkit has been compiled to help with this study; it can be found on our website. These studies will be utilized during a Church reflection at Café Church on the 27th April 2014

Readings

Acts 1: 6-11; Matthew 28: 16-20; 1 Thess. 1: 1-10; & Psalm 67

Prayer, Praise and Meditation. Read and meditate upon Psalm 67. Select a verse (perhaps vs. 1) and using the *Breath Prayer* method described in the Lenten toolkit rest in God on His truth.

Real Mission; what is it (Mark 1: 15 & Colossians 1: 19-20)?

Read all the passages for this study and the above selected verses and consider the difference between 'doing mission' and what the Mission actually is; describe the enormity of God's Mission (Missio Dei) – come up with your own definition based on the Scriptures.

Real Mission; who does it (Acts 2: 47; above readings)?

Recalling our previous study focusing on the early Church in Acts we see that it is God who saves (Acts 2: 47 & Acts 4 12). Amazingly God has chosen the Church as His agents for His Mission. Consider our studies on Real Church to date (Real Truth, Real Fellowship, Real Worship) and the early Church – why do you think God has chosen this route for His mission, why did Jesus leave – is there a connection between His departure and God's Mission through the Church (Acts 1: 6-11 and Matt 28: 18-20)?

Real Mission; how is it done (above readings)?

On Sunday we saw that mission involves witness (Acts 1.8) making

disciples (Matt 28: 19-20.) and service (1 Thess.1: 3, 6 & 9). Who might the categories of people described, that the disciples were to witness to, represent in our society today; how might we witness? How can our Church make disciples and what should we teach? The passage in Thessalonians describes a Church with a positive witness and Mission. What qualities of the four marks of a Real Church can you see in this passage; what lessons can we draw upon for St Aidan's?

Jesus and the apostle Paul were clear in their direction that God's mission should be completed in His power through His Holy Spirit and with joy (Acts 1: 8; 1 Thess. 1: 5&9). How might we allow the Spirit to empower us and what should our motivation be for God's Mission (1 Thess. 1: 3&6)?

In Acts 1: 11 and 1 Thess. 1: 10 we are told very clearly of Christ's return. What impact should this return have upon us and God's Mission?

Final thoughts and Prayer

In our brief study on Real Church we have focused upon the four marks of such a Church; Real Truth, Worship, Fellowship and Mission. Consider what has really stuck you in this series and ask why? How might St Aidan's and you as an individual develop because of these truths; what practical steps could be taken?

Prayer: Let us pray for the way forward: the Café Church on the 27th April; the Church Planning Day on the 3rd May; the Gift Day on the 25th May. Ask that we may confirm our learning, grow forward as a Church and discern our gifts for God's glory within our Church & lives.

Future Study

Please note down an aspect of key learning or a point that you want to study further at Café Church on the 27th April:

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