

## Traditional Home service

### Sunday 6th Feb

#### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; 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

#### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples. We ask for your mercy and your help.

Our selfishness betrays you:  
Lord, forgive us. Christ have mercy.

We fail to share the pain of your suffering:  
Lord, forgive us. Christ have mercy.

We run away from those who abuse you:  
Lord, forgive us. Christ have mercy.

We are afraid of being known to belong to you:  
Lord, forgive us. Christ have mercy.

#### PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts. Open our lips, Lord: and we shall praise your name.

#### HYMN 1 (*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*)

READINGS - 1 Corinthians 15.1-11  
Luke 5.1-11

#### TALK

#### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.*

#### 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.

#### HYMN 2 (*And Can It Be that I Should Gain*)

#### CONCLUSION

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and  
stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

5 Breathe through the heats of our  
desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind,  
and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

1 And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood  
Died He for me, who caused His pain  
For me, who Him to death pursued?

*Amazing love! How can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for  
me?*

*Amazing love! How can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for  
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2 He left His Father's throne above  
So free, so infinite His grace  
Emptied Himself of all but love  
And bled for Adam's helpless race  
Tic mercy all, immense and free  
For O my God, it found out me!

*Amazing love! How can it be,  
...*

3 Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light  
My chains fell off, my heart was free  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee

*Amazing love! How can it be,  
...*

4 No condemnation now I dread  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine  
Alive in Him, my living Head  
And clothed in righteousness divine  
Bold I approach the eternal throne  
And claim the crown, through Christ  
my own

*Amazing love! How can it be,  
...*

Sermon - Adrian Morton

1 Corinthians 15.1-11 & Luke 5:1-11; 4

principles to live by for life to be an adventure...

<Story of Larry Walters a 33yr old truck driver. He tied 45 six-foot weather balloons to a lawn chair, thinking it would take him to 100 feet. Instead he shot up to 16,000 feet and was spotted by a couple of airplanes. He had taken a BB gun to shoot the balloons to get him down. At 16,000 he started to go numb, but after shooting some of the balloons he lost the pistol over board. The chair drifted downward, controlled only by the gallon jugs of water attached to the sides as ballast. The ropes became entangled in a power line, briefly blacking out a small area of California, but the chair came to rest 5ft from the ground and Larry was able to get down safely.

He said, "Since I was 13 years old, I've dreamed of going up into the clear blue sky in a weather balloon. By the grace of God, I fulfilled my dream."

>

I think all of us hanker after adventure in some way.

I don't think many people want life to be mundane.

And following Jesus should be an adventure!

This morning I want to give 4 principles to live by that will ensure that following Jesus is an adventure.

And it doesn't matter whether you are starting off in your journey with Jesus.

Or whether you are more mature in years.

Following Jesus should be an adventure till the end of our days on this earth.

And of course beyond!

The 4 principles come from this account in Luke 5 of Jesus calling the first disciples.

Jesus is standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.

He takes the opportunity to get into a boat, and teach the people from the boat.

Apparently, even today the landscape hasn't changed much and the shoreline in this region zigzags with steep inlets.

So it would be a good way to speak to many people...

Whilst in the boat though Jesus also takes the opportunity to engage with some soon to be disciples and particularly he engages Simon Peter.

"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything." But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

The **first** principle to live by is that we have to cultivate a "**because you say so**" attitude.

Jesus, *because you say so* I'm going to leave this job and apply for that one.

*Because you say so*, I'm going to forgive that person who wronged me all those years ago,

*Because you say so*, I'm going to move to that village or town.

*Because you say so*, I'm going to give this amount of money to that good cause.

Whatever it is, I'm going to do, *Because you say so*.

These fishermen had finished for the day. They would have fished all night. They didn't then fish during the day.

In our walk with Jesus, sometimes he will ask us to do something that on the face of it, is

- i. a bit unusual
- ii. or surprising
- iii. or even non-sensical to us

But 'because he says so... will man we will do it.

I'm aware that how to discern God's voice in our life is a whole subject in itself.

Nicky Gumbel on the Alpha course does a very helpful talk about this.

He talks about 5 CS.. Commanding Scripture, Compelling Spirit, Council of the Saints, Common sense and Circumstantial signs.

All these will help guide us...

In the end its about cultivating a relationship with the Lord.

Being open to the Holy Spirit's prompting and guidance.

Learning how He speaks to you...

I've known people who get paralysed by trying to make a decision between 2 choices.

Terrified that they might get it wrong and not choose God's path for them.

If you are in that place.  
And you have read Nicky Gumbel's talk.  
And your heart is really for the Lord.  
And you are open to Him and committing your way to Him.  
Then I would say just be free to make the decision and choose one of the options.

If it's really not clear then I think we are free to choose.

I believe the Lord is very capable of guiding us.  
It's easy for him.

So if it's not clear to us, then be free to choose.

And it likely means that either option is an ok option.

The Lord will use either option to guide you to become more like the person he wants you to be.

But the first principle is to cultivate an attitude of 'Because you say so...'

The **second** principle is this...

### **The life Jesus gives is abundant life.**

They didn't just catch one or two fish, they caught so many that their nets began to break.

It's illustrating, that Jesus is about abundance.

It doesn't necessarily mean money, material things.

God knows our hearts.

He knows what gladdens our hearts.

If we cultivate a life of 'Because you say so...' he will lead us into situations and circumstances that bring joy and fulfilment to our hearts.

The Lord knows our hearts better than we do.

He knows what will bring fulfilment, joy to our hearts.

In this reading Jesus entered the world of Simon Peter, the fishing world, and brought abundance to it.

We are never to partition our lives into our religious life and our secular life.

Jesus wants to enter our whole lives and bring abundance to it.

In this reading it says "*they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.*"

When Jesus brings abundance it will affect those around us.

It will affect those we have influence over.

I sometimes think we don't see more abundance because we are stuck with a poverty mindset.

Look, all we receive from Jesus is by faith. We have to believe what he says, live with an expectation that is what we will receive, and then we will receive it.

But if we live with a faith such that we believe we are not going to receive abundance.

Then we won't receive abundance because we haven't the faith for it...

<Louise and I were treated to a meal out this week. It was a lovely place in Milton Keynes... The food was fantastic, I think I had the best steak I've ever had... It was really expensive.... the place was fairly full of people who looked like they could afford to eat there. Part of us felt a little out of place. Louise had dressed up and looked amazing... I was less spectacular.. and a bit more shabby... more comfortable I like to think...>

But we analysed our time there on the way back...

Both Louise and I come from working class backgrounds.

Louise's grandparents were farm labourers. Mine were Yorkshire miners...

Both our parents sets though, gain an education and worked in way that we were both brought in middle class homes and environments.

It means we naturally have a middle class out look.

That affects how we view the world.

Just two examples... Food and the driving force in life.

If we have a poverty mindset quantity of food is the most important.

If we have a middle class mindset, quality of food is most important.

The steak was lovely...

If we have a wealth mindset, the presentation of food is most important.

Which is why very expensive restaurants make sure the food looks amazing...

If you have a poverty mindset, your driving force in life is survival.

I'm here to just survive.

For the middle class the driving force is education, work & achievement.

For the wealth mindset its political and social connections.

Who you know matters more.

When we become Christians our position is moved to a wealthy position.

Again I'm not talking about simply finance.

What happens when we become a Christian is that we become sons and daughters of the King of Kings.

We are princes and princesses.

That's our position.

We now have to change our mindset, our thinking to match our position.

Again, this a subject all in itself..

I will do a talk about this soon I think...

<Many of you know I don't like church fundraising...

Why? Its because of this..

Fundraising for church means we have a poverty mindset.

We're here to survive.

We have to scrimp and scrape, ask people for their change in order to survive.

Its why I have disliked the jumble sale and coffee morning to raise funds culture.

By all means have coffee mornings..  
Have them to build social connections...

We need to move on... The second principle is that Jesus brings abundant life.

**Thirdly, attend to your inner life.**

Getting close to Jesus will reveal the state of your inner life.

When Simon Peter saw what Jesus had done, it says:

'he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man."

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid..."

I've spoken about sin, our attitude to it over the last few weeks on the line service.

So I don't want to repeat myself.

Just to say... when we come to Jesus some attitudes, desires, behaviours will be dealt with straight away.

We will wake up the next morning knowing we are different.

However, and we all knows this.. some things take longer to deal with.

And I think that is God's mercy over our life.

So as we continue to walk with Him, get close to him, light will be shone on some remaining dark corners of our life.

And it is an invitation to attend to those.

We need to understand the goodness of God.

We need to understand what the cross has achieved.

That we are accepted, that we are righteous because of Jesus.

I love what Kris Vallotton said about this:

*Religion rubs our noses in the past to keep us humble... In reality it is much more humbling to live in the liberty of unearned forgiveness. When we are forgiven the King gives us permission to live as though we had never sinned".*

We need to understand that Jesus isn't afraid of our sin.

But is inviting us to live in increased freedom...

The third principle is to **attend to your inner life.**

## **Fourthly, and finally... you are now a fisherman!**

Jesus said to Simon Peter,  
“Don’t be afraid, from now on you will catch men.”

Wasn’t Gemma’s notice great last week.

I never knew the Church of England’s new mission included:

*To become a church of missionary disciples where all God’s people are released to live the Christian life*

I probably should have known that...!

In other words, we are all to be involved in mission work.

I saw on the Wollaston facebook page this week that a Crochet and knitting group has started at the library...

It may not surprise you, but crocheting isn’t one of my areas of gifting.

But it may be yours!  
If it is.. why not get involved in that group.  
Bring to it a wealthy mindset, an abundance mindset.  
Start praying for the members...

<Nigel and the Cafe...>

Louise did a talk for Chris Brett’s up and coming evangelists this week...

It was called I’d rather lose a curry!

And she talked about who we are, that we act with grace.

She gave a story of how she was in the reduced section in the co op, She loves a bargain!  
She was bopped down going through items when a man came beside her to look too, they both wanted the same curry!  
It was a bargain, she was there first!  
But she said to him that’s ok you have it!

She wanted to be the person that lets someone else have the curry! That lets

someone in in front of her because they have less shopping.

Its acting with grace.

Its also being known for who we are.  
That we are people of faith.  
That we are part of the church community.

And in the end isn’t it just trying to inspire curiosity with in people.

Its not firstly about telling people what they should believe.  
And certainly not how they should behave.

But its about inspiring curiosity.

What is it that gives this person such peace, such hope?  
Might there be something in this Jesus person....?

Ok, lets finish...

After this encounter with Jesus..

These fishermen pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.

Their life would never be the same.  
It started an amazing adventure for them

4 principles for us from this reading...

1. Cultivate a “because you say so” attitude.
2. Jesus brings abundant life.
3. Attend to your inner life.
4. You are now a fisherman!

They really will ensure life will be an adventure...

Amen.