

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008

## Our Story : A True Story

### 2 Peter 1 : 16- end

Word:Key points from Sunday's sermon



**True?** When have you found yourself unable to convince someone that what you are saying is true? Or have you listened to someone else and thought that what they are saying is just ridiculous. We can sometimes take some convincing. In Peter 1:16-end, we heard about just this; a people who are not convinced by what they have heard. In fact, Peter begins this section by suggesting worse; that there are those who are rejecting traditional teaching, believing he, Peter, and the other apostles, to be concocting myths.

**Peter's eye witness account:** The actual truth in doubt concerns the Transfiguration – an event witnessed by Peter himself, along with James and John. Peter talks of the occasion on the holy mountain (verse 18) when God the Father bestowed his majestic glory upon his Son amidst dazzling, bright, white light, with the words 'This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased'. Peter is an eye witness as he had come face to face with the bright, dazzling face of Jesus. His recounting of this event is a true account.

**The true story:** Peter ends this section of his letter (verses 19 to 23) by discussing prophecy. This section has an uncomfortable feel to it; 'you will do well to be attentive to this'... and 'you *must* understand this'.., he says. For now, believers must be content with a lamp shining to dispel the darkness of sin to guide them; but it is a light we would do well to follow for it will lead to a light so bright it will be like the dawn of a new day. Prophecy was being used to both press home the message that Jesus will return and also to promote the early Christian's different understanding of God as revealed through Jesus Christ. The Old Testament prophecies were, and are, uncomfortable but so are other bits of the Scripture.

But that does not pave the way for us to dismiss the difficult bits. It is easy to pick and choose what we believe that is given to us in the Bible, to apply different interpretations according to whatever circumstance we find ourselves in. And that is not what Jesus himself taught. Interpretation of the true story comes from (verse 21) 'men and women moved by the Holy Spirit'. In this letter, Peter was inspired by what he witnessed. Moved by the Holy Spirit. He passed his true story on and so a tradition began which has its origins in God's word spoken by the prophets and which has reached us today.



## Witness:Questions to discuss

### Questions

- How does it help to listen to others' stories and retell our own as we travel the Christian journey.

- Which Christian characters in the Bible can you identify with. Who do you find it hard to understand and why.
- Read Matthew 17: 1-8. Why do you think God commanded the disciples to 'listen to him'? How does that challenge us as Christians today?
- How might retelling the God's True Story at St Paul's help with us with our mission and vision?
- What 'cleverly concocted myths' abound in the 21<sup>st</sup> century which may cause the true Christian Story to fall on deaf ears.
- How do you cope when someone says;  
'Prove it to me, this Christian message. How can it be true?'