

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups Sept 30th 2007

Hidden – The 72

Luke 10:1-23



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

Before chapter 10 Jesus sends out the 12 disciples – read 9:1-2. But the rest of chapter 9 shows the disciples struggling! They didn't really respond to Jesus in the feeding of the 5000 – read Luke 9:13-14; Peter's confession (9:20) soon gave way to the embarrassing attempt to capture the glory of God at the Transfiguration (9:33); they failed miserably with the boy who needed healing of an evil spirit (9:40); they didn't understand what Jesus was talking about when he reveals details of his imminent betrayal (9:44-46); they argue as to who will be the greatest (9:46); and they are rebuked by Jesus for wanting to call down fire on an unfriendly Samaritan village! (9:54-55). Jesus calls others to follow him but all he gets is excuses – read 9:59-62, so Jesus eventually appoints another 72 disciples!

They are appointed amidst a gathering sense of urgency – read 10:2. Jesus' time on earth was running out – read 9:51. There were only a few weeks left for him to train his disciples and it is into the intensity of this time that he sends the 72 out "like lambs amongst wolves." It doesn't bode well! And Jesus prepares them for the worst! -read 10:10-12. However the result of the Mission of the 72 can be summarised with one word – Joy! An explosion of joy! The disciples returned full of joy – read 10:17. Jesus too was full of joy – read 10:21.

Joy was so much in evidence because:

God's Power was at work! – Read 10:17-19. There is a battle for the hearts and mind and lives of every generation but it is battle that is won with the authority and power of God as God's people bring healing and the peace of Christ into fractured lives and proclaim that there is an alternative Kingdom (read 10:5-9)

People were saved – read 9:20. Jesus calls the 72 to rejoice because their names are written in heaven! To discover Jesus as Saviour and Lord is the single most cause of joy that can be experienced – no wonder CS Lewis a reluctant convert described his conversion in an account entitled 'Surprised by Joy.'

Disciples discovered – read 10:21-24. What brought joy to Jesus was that hidden things were revealed, the wise and learned, kings and prophets who searched for meaning and purpose could not find it but these rag tag disparate followers of Jesus had got it!



Witness: questions to discuss

1. What areas of faith do you struggle with?
2. On your Christian journey have you ever felt like a 'lamb amongst wolves?'
3. Have you ever related your conversion/journey of faith experiences to your small group? If not do so tonight!
4. Jesus said "Rejoice that your names are written in heaven!" what does this mean to you?
5. Consider the 'picture' of our church from last Sunday's evening service (below). Prayerfully share your thoughts then pray together.

The picture was of the church lit up inside. Outside in the surrounding area it was dark. The Holy Spirit was swirling around over the church and we were safe inside. There was a sense of protection but brooding. The church had four pillars N,E,S,W. Facing outwards over Dorking. In the service tonight I felt God completed the picture and what Paul, Ros, Phil and Sylvia said seemed to fit into each pillar. Each pillar represented an aspect of our commitment to follow the Lord as a church community.

1. A call to deeper worship and a sense of the glory of God.
2. A call to listen and pray.
3. A call to obedience.
4. A call to go into Dorking and meet people where they are at.

The Holy Spirit hovered over each pillar and as we responded the pillars blazed with light and the whole of Dorking was lit up.