

# SERMON NOTES Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## sunnysidechurch

### **Theme: Called to serve**

Main passage: **Deuteronomy 10:12-22** Additional Readings: **Luke 6:46-49**

### **Some of the main themes from the sermon**

#### **The People of Israel: Whom to serve**

After having been rescued from Egypt by God, the people of Israel were still fickle. They ignored the 10 commandments and built themselves a golden calf to worship. Rather than giving up on them God asked Moses to renew His covenant with them. The passage in Deuteronomy 10:12-22 is Moses talking to God's people as they are in the verge of entering the Promised Land. He reminds them just who it is who is calling them:

The God who chose them (v15) and who set them free (v19) by performing mighty works (v20) to deliver them from Egypt and keep them safe in the desert. This God is not like the other tribal gods they will encounter. He is the maker of everything (v14) and the author of love and defender of the weak (v18).

#### **The People of Israel: How to serve**

Moses tells the people that they are to serve God by being in awe of him and loving Him, by serving Him with all their heart and soul (v12). They are also to obey God's commands, which are there for their own good (v13) and they should imitate God by loving those who are foreigners (v19).

#### **What changed with Jesus?**

God's character is unchanging but through Jesus we see more clearly what God is like. Jesus was 'in very nature God' (Phil 2:6). Through Jesus, God invited us and all people into his loving kingdom. Seeing God in Jesus gives us even more reason to want to serve the servant king, the one who gave everything for us.

#### **.....and what didn't**

Jesus made it clear to his followers that, like the people of Israel, following God involves a choice and that our choices have consequences. See for instance Matt 6:24 and our second bible reading, Luke 6:46-49.

#### **How should WE serve?**

Serving is first and foremost a way of being; a grateful and obedient response to the God who spared nothing to save us and make us whole. There is absolutely no template but there are all sorts of examples of different ways of serving in the bible: We should use the gifts God has given us, follow our passions, find out where the need is, be prepared to be prompted. We should start where we are

unless we feel a specific call to be elsewhere. Our serving may or may not involve our paid work.

### **Mothering Sunday**

Today is Mothering Sunday and so it is good today, in the context of thinking about how we are called to serve, to give thanks for our mothers and those other people in our lives whose service to God has included nurturing and protecting us with the love that we associate with a mother's love.

### **Some questions for thought and discussion this week:**

1. *Who are the people who have nurtured and protected you in your life? What specifically are you grateful for in the way they loved, nurtured and protected you?*
2. *In what ways do you think you currently serve God? Have the ways you feel God is inviting you to serve Him changed over time?*
3. *Do you think there are new ways in which you might be being called to serve God? This might be because of changes in your own circumstances or changes in the world.*
4. *If you are in a group, talk about any ways you could encourage each other in serving God or possibly take on some project of service together.*
5. *Are there any other issues that the sermon or the bible passages raise for you?*

### **Quote of the week:**

**'God is Christlike, and in him is no un-Christlikeness at all'** Archbishop Michael Ramsey, quoted in **'The Christlike God'** by John V Taylor