

SERMON NOTES Sunday 22 January

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages: Isaiah 9.1-4; Matthew 4.12-23

Introduction

Epiphany

- Moment of sudden and great revelation or realisation
- Reading from Matthew shows us how Jesus fulfils Isaiah's prophecy

1. Jesus calls his disciples

- Norm was for disciples to choose their rabbi but Jesus calls his disciples
- They spend time with him learning from him how to become like him
- Jesus' initiative which we respond to

2. Jesus calls them where they are

- They already know something about Jesus but now he goes to their workplace and invites them to make a choice
- Not know everything about him but Jesus invites them to be with him and learn from him

3. Jesus calls them to become who he sees them as

- Jesus sees that they could become more fully who they were created to be and become fishers of men
- Preached message of repentance which a lifelong process

Conclusion

Good News that Jesus loves us too much to leave us as we are but offers us a relationship with him through which we will become more fully the people we were created to be.

Some Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of the questions in life that you struggle with?
2. Read Isaiah 9.1-4 and Matthew 4.12-23. What do you notice?
3. How does Matthew show that Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled in Jesus?
4. What was your experience of being called by Jesus? What made you accept his invitation to follow him?
5. What are some of the epiphanies you have had about following Jesus since you accepted his invitation to follow him?
6. Why is repentance good news? How has that been your experience?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matthew 4. 17

Why not spend some time asking God what you need to repent of and receive his forgiveness and healing? Then invite the Holy Spirit to transform you in you on these areas.

Revd Rebecca Fardell