

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 19 February

sunnysidechurch

Called to Tell: telling our stories

Bible passages: Mark 5.1-20; Acts 22.2-21

Introduction

- Great stories have relevance, resonance, reach, redemption and the 'ring of truth' (Andrew Wilcock)
- Our personal stories are a powerful way of talking about Jesus with our family and friends
- Bible readings: 2 stories of men whose lives were transformed by an encounter with Jesus and who told their stories to others

Telling our stories

- Our culture prioritises personal experience as a way of understanding and relating to events, people or ideas
- Good to think about our story so we are ready to tell it:
 - Story of what God doing – God at work
 - Story of our journey to faith in Jesus
 - Story of following Jesus
- 3 good questions to help us:
 1. When did you become a Christian?
 2. What made you decide to follow Jesus?
 3. How has knowing Jesus has made a difference to your life?

Conclusion

'But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect' (1 Peter 3.15)

Some questions for discussion

1. Why are personal stories such a powerful way of sharing experiences and ideas with others?
2. Read Mark 5.1-20. What makes the man's story so amazing to those who hear it?
3. Read Acts 22.2-21. What strikes you about Paul's story?
4. What is your experience of our society's emphasis on feelings and story? Can you give some examples?
5. Where have you experienced God at work in the past week?
6. How would you answer the three questions Rebecca gave to help us tell our story?
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!

Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me. (Psalm 66.16)

Why not spend some time thanking God for what he has done for you and asking him to help you tell your story of Jesus to someone this week?

Revd Rebecca Fardell