

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 27 April

sunnysidechurch

Called to be witnesses

Bible passages: Acts 5.27-32 and John 20.19-end

Introduction

- Power of witnesses in helping us understand events and their impact

Context of reading from Acts

- Church growing rapidly since Pentecost as Holy Spirit empower teaching and healings by Apostles and radical community of believers
- Opposition growing as authorities try to suppress good news about Jesus

Called to be witnesses

- Apostles witnessing to Jesus through what say and do
- More important to them to obey God in this than bow to opposition and give way to threats
- Empowered by Holy Spirit
- Can only witness to what we have seen and known – reason Thomas initially doubts
- We are experts on our story and called to witness to the difference Jesus makes to it

Conclusion

How good a witness are we in what we say and do as individuals and as a church?

Some questions to discuss

1. Have you ever been asked to be a witness? What were you being asked to do?
2. Read Acts 5.27-32. What do you notice?
3. Look back over Acts 2-5. What do they show us what being an effective witness might involve?
4. In what ways is the Holy Spirit a witness (v32)?
5. Read 20.19-end. How does this help us think about being a witness?
6. Who might God being calling you to witness to this week?
7. Sunnyside's vision is 'to be recognised as a Christ-centred community of living faith which seeks to make Jesus known to others.' In what ways are we doing this? How might we be better witnesses as a church?
8. 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!

Jesus said: 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses' (Acts 1.8)

Why not spend some time thanking God for the power of the Holy Spirit in us and ask him to help us be more effective witnesses through all we say and do?

Revd Rebecca Fardell