

# **SERMON NOTES**    Sunday 14 September

## **sunnysidechurch**

### **The power of testimony**

**Bible passages: 1 Timothy 1.12-17 and Luke 15.1-10**

#### **Introduction**

- Stories are powerful things which help us understand our history and ideas
- Stories are a great way of telling others about Jesus

#### **The Gospel of Jesus**

- Paul explains what the gospel means by telling his story
- Paul not realise he was lost until Jesus found him which is true of many

#### **Here is a trustworthy saying**

- Paul's summary of the gospel: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' (v15)
- Paul personalises the gospel and stresses that Christ reached out and we respond cp Jesus' stories of lost

#### **Paul's response to the gospel: humility and gratitude**

- Humility: Paul recognises who he was 'the worst of sinners' but doesn't wallow in it
- Gratitude: God has given him a 'superabundance' of all he lacked and so he responds with praise and service

#### **Conclusion**

- Gift Day an important part of Sunnyside's story of how we respond to what God has done for us
- What story can we tell of what God has done for us and the difference he has made?
- What are we grateful to God for and how will we respond?

### **Some questions to discuss**

1. What are you thankful to God for today?
2. Read 1 Timothy 1.12-17. How does Paul's testimony help you understand more of the gospel of Jesus?
3. Paul didn't know he was lost until after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Does this resonate with your story?
4. Read Luke 15.1-10. In what ways do these stories help you understand the gospel more fully?
5. Paul directly links Jesus (immense patience) with the character of God in the Old Testament (e.g. Exodus 34.6). In what way does this deepen your understanding of God?
6. How would you summarise the gospel of Jesus?
7. How could you use the story of Gift Day to tell others something of who God is?
8. Is there one thing that you are taking away from these passages? Is there something you need to do in response? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something God wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1.17)

Why not spend some time praising God for what he has done and asking him who you could tell your story to this week?

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