

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 28 Sept. sunnysidechurch

The Mission of God

Bible passages: Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 4:19, John 20:21, Acts 1:7-8

Introduction

Since 1984 Sunnyside has been committed to giving as a way of expressing God's love in word and deed. Once a year, we invite one-off donations to a 'Gift Day' collection. The focus of the Gift Day centres on God's Mission. How do we define the Mission of God? Here are some questions to consider

- What are we to do in Mission?
- How are we to do God's Mission?
- Where are we to do God's Mission?

1. What are we to do. Matthew 28:18-20

Go, make disciples, baptise and teach – these are the actions God asks of us. And in the midst of these tasks claiming the promise that Jesus will be with us.

But first we need to respond ourselves to Jesus Great Invitation in Matt 4:19.

2. How we are to live. John 20:21-22

Jesus sends out his disciples with the words 'as the Father had sent me, so I sent you.' How did the father send Jesus. He lays aside his power, position and comes in weakness as a servant heart. This is what God asks of us as he send us out.

3. Where we need to go. Acts 1:8

Translating this instruction for us at Sunnyside, means we are to be his witnesses in and around Berkhamsted, in the UK, in Europe and to the ends of the earth – a huge calling.

Some questions to discuss

1. What experiences or lessons have you had in your faith journey as you sought to serve the task of mission.
2. Can you share any situations where you found yourself vulnerable and weak yet God used you or taught you a specific lesson?
3. As a means of encouragement, share any examples you have had of inviting people to follow Jesus. What was their response?
4. Share an experience you have had of someone inviting you to follow Jesus. How did this affect you?
5. Read the Acts 12:25 to Acts 13:4. What lessons can we learn about God's mission from the example of the first missionaries sent out from the church in Antioch?
6. How might the Antioch church example shape our mission outreach from Sunnyside.
7. What new initiatives could Sunnyside launch to further the cause of God's mission in Berkhamsted? What obstacles could be in the way?
8. Is there something you need to do in response to God's call on your life to continue the journey of following Jesus? 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!

John 16:33 "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace – in the world you will have trouble. But take heart I have overcome the world."

Prayerfully read Psalm 96 and consider what actions the Psalmist calls us to do as we fulfil the Mission of God.