

SERMON NOTES Sunday 18 January

sunnysidechurch

Bible passage: John 1.29-42

Introduction

- John 1 very clear that John the Baptist is not the Messiah but the one who prepared the way
- John the Baptist recognises that Jesus is 'the Chosen One' when he sees the Holy Spirit fall on him as a dove. He tells others what he has seen and points them to Jesus
- Andrew spends time with Jesus, goes and tells his brother and invites Simon to come to Jesus too

Power of Story and Invitation

- Our task is to tell others about Jesus and the difference following him makes to us
- Encouraging for we are the experts in our story
- Holy Spirit convicts people of the truth of who Jesus is
- Inviting people to events or service can make a big difference

Are we ready to tell our stories?

- '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) Why do I follow Jesus?
- What difference does Jesus make to my daily life?
- How has Jesus made a difference to me recently?
- Who can we tell? Who can we invite?

Conclusion

Are we pointing other people to Jesus in our words and through our lives?

Some questions to discuss

1. Who are some of the people who told you about Jesus?
2. Read John 1.29-42. What do you notice?
3. John the Baptist is usually shown pointing in paintings. In what ways does this passage help you understand why this is so?
4. Trace what we learn about Andrew's journey of faith? What might this teach us?
5. How might you answer the questions:
 - Why do I follow Jesus?
 - What difference does Jesus make to my daily life?
 - How has Jesus made a difference to me recently?
6. Who might you tell your story to this week? Who might you invite to something at church?
7. Is there one thing that you are taking away from this passage? 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!

'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.' (1 Peter 3.15)

Why not spend some time thanking Jesus for your story and ask him to help you share it with others?

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