

SERMON NOTES Sunday 25 January

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages: Jeremiah 1.4-10 and Acts 9.1-22

Introduction

- Jeremiah: the 'weeping prophet' (or persevering prophet) called by God in c627BC
- Saul/Paul: evangelist to the Gentiles; dramatically encountered Jesus, cAD33-34

Some common themes in their stories:

1. God Knows us

- Both stories begin with assertion that God knew the people he was meeting with
- Deep longing in all of us to be known – to be seen
- Hagar (Genesis 16): 'You are the God who sees me'

2. God calls us

- God calls Jeremiah and Paul to the work they do for him
- Both unlikely people for the work they are called to (Jeremiah a young man; Paul persecuting church)
- All called by God: to follow him and to serve in particular ways

3. God equips us

- God promises to be with Jeremiah and instructed Paul
- Acts and Epistles repeatedly see how God equip and encourage Paul in work he called him to do
- Holy Spirit empower us to do what God calls us to do

Conclusion

Stories encourage and great way of sharing our faith

Some questions to discuss

1. Who are some of the people whose stories inspire you?
2. Read Jeremiah 1.4-10. What do you notice?
3. Read Acts 9.1-22. What common themes do you see with Jeremiah's story? What is different?
4. 'You are the God who sees' (Gen 16.13). In what ways does the truth that God sees you encourage and challenge you?
5. God calls us all to follow him and then to serve him in ways that are particular to us. What does this look like for you?
6. Think of times when you have felt unable to do something, but God has enabled you to do it? How might God be equipping you today?
7. 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!

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you'

(Jeremiah 1.5)

Why not spend some time thanking God that he knows you and calls you, and ask him to fill you afresh with his Spirit so you might be equipped to follow him this week?

Revd Rebecca Fardell