

A LOVING & SERVING CHURCH

A CHURCH GIVEN TO LOVING SERVICE, SEEKING TO BRING HOPE AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO THOSE AROUND US

OUTLINE

1. Story – “Ken” up the road having a fall – Luke & Hannah helping
2. Shorthand – “be like Jesus”
 - a. Jesus gave time, teaching, reputation, healing, resurrection, love
 - b. In other words, Jesus gave Himself – Philippians 2 – everything he could have grasped, He gave up in order to see us inherit
3. Being like Jesus means giving ourselves
 - a. First place = in the Church – most Scriptures spoken to Israel, or Jesus-followers
 - b. No longer “mine” and “yours” but “ours” – Acts 4:32 – we are one in Christ
 - c. Jen Newton @4am, four meals for Caroline
 - d. But what about those we’re not “one with”?
We still get our hands dirty and serve because...
4. We are something special
 - a. Hannah, when “Ken” fell – she is an OT.
 - b. Identity vs duty – e.g. Steve J’s CAB client, B&M medical care vs Imam’s
 - c. We are Christians – “little Christs” (perj.)
 - d. Acts 9, Lydda – Dorcas “always doing good and helping the poor” – why?
 - e. Acts 10, Cornelius “anointed with HS and power, went around doing good & healing all who were under the power of the devil”
 - f. Acts 9, Lydda – Peter raises Dorcas, but also heals Aeneas – same reason
 - g. We are children (like our parents)
 - h. We are ambassadors (represent our Kingdom)
 - i. Redeeming the Image of God (statues, governors represent ruler)
 - j. Could be a recipe for burnout, so remember – our Kingdom is a Kingdom of work and of rest, of battle and of peace – and of a sound mind!
5. We have something special
 - a. Back to Hannah – she can do more than just pick up “Ken”
 - b. Home support, house assessment, walking aids, ... - all give longer-term help and hope
 - c. Different quality of help – not focused on immediate relief. In fact some (e.g. house changes) might initially be troublesome

- d. Jesus was forever a bearer of hope
- e. Beatitudes – blessed are those who are poor, who mourn, who thirst, who suffer
- f. Eggs & scorpions – hope that God would give His Holy Spirit to all who ask
- g. Hope ultimately anchored in eternity – John 11:25-26
I am the resurrection & the life.
The one who believes in me will live, even though they die
Whoever lives by believing in me will never die
- h. We are Christians, so we serve people with deep love & care
- i. We are Christians, so we offer people eternal hope
- j. We are most fully like Christ when we do both of these things
- k. It's not either / or – both are in our identity

6. Statues

- a. What was Rome like? Or 20th Century Russia? Or 17C England?
- b. If my friends & neighbours “make God in my image”, what is He like in their eyes?

7. So what about us?

- a. Mentioned learning from Albania – Living Waters; also Greek meals & English classes
- b. For us – CAP. But not at the core of the church: more “an organisation we support” rather than something we are and do
- c. Challenge to recommit to bringing practical support and hope
- d. Doesn't have to be CAP, but need both organic and organised, and CAP does the organised bit better than any UK org I've seen
- e. If this is central enough that it's in our vision statement, we need to consider CAP's suggestion that it's a “core ministry”, because it needs to flow from the heart
- f. Acts 10 – a conversation between a Jewish man with no particular status in the Roman world, and a centurion concerned heavily engaged in Roman public life. Our equivalent? Perhaps one of our Grounded group talking to a county councillor from SODC. [quote]