

Sunday 4th October 2010

The "Jesus model " for mission

Summary of preach

Q. Do we/I/you want to see greater things to come for Dublin and for Saoirse?

Q. How are these things going to come?

We need a model from Jesus who came to show us how

John 4:1-42 3 things:

1. Jesus did not live in a bombshelter! v3,4

- **He did not exclusively live with his own**

- V 3 He went to Galilee (synonymous with Non-jews) from south to the North
- V4 He didn't avoid Samaria, but went through it
- V1-2 Why do you think he left for Galilee? The attitude of the religious people

Jeremiah 29 we saw 3 wks ago that there are 2 wrong ways and one God way to respond to the city:

- A. Assimilation Babylonians were experts ..."become like us"
- B. Tribalism or Bombshelter ..."have nothing to do with city"

OR

- C. Incarnational City within a city, lamp on a stand, yeast in the mix

Halloween Party on 31st October 3- 5pm

So Assimilation: ie we embrace it wholeheartedly

Bombshelter mentality: ie we have nothing to do with it, or hold a "Hallelujah Party"

OR

Incarnational : ie we hold a Halloween party but show Dublin that Jesus is the best way to ward off evil spirits

2. Jesus starts and finishes with unconditional love for people, v7

- For a Jew to speak to a Samaritan let alone a Samaritan woman was a radical thing V9
- Jesus took the initiative to give love
- God wins people with unconditional love

3. Jesus definition of success is very clear v37, 38 It is about sowing and reaping!

Q. How many of us are disappointed when it comes to seeing our friends who don't know Jesus knowing him?

Often this is because we have not seen our friends accept Jesus and so we conclude we have failed. That is so often our definition of success.

But Jesus is clear here that all he did was reap where others had sown.

For most people the journey of faith includes most of the following 10 steps:

1. People who have no awareness of or wrong idea of the living God
2. Some awareness of living God
3. Contact with Disciples of Jesus
4. Interest in Jesus themselves
5. Decision to investigate Jesus
6. Grasp the truth about Jesus and what He did for them

7. Understand the implications about this for themselves
8. Accept the truth about being a disciple
9. Accept the implications for themselves
10. Decide to follow Jesus

Today, most people in Ireland are between? 2 and 4 (100 years ago most people in Ireland who were not disciples, would have been much higher, 5-10)

The Samaritan woman was at 8, 9 or 10. All Jesus had to do was reveal that he was the Messiah!

So success for us is to initiate with people, show love and see them move one step at a time, which could be from 1 to 2 (ie you live next door to someone and go out of your way to find out their name and demonstrate undeserved love e.g. listen to them, ask them questions, offer to take their bin out for them) In doing so you are showing them something of what the living God is really like

So Jesus' mission is a process of sowing and reaping

Questions:

1. Which of the 3 ways of interacting with the city (from Jeremiah 29) do you use most of the time (assimilation, bomb shelter or incarnational) and what could you do to live this week more like Jesus?

Will you come to serve on Saturday October 31st (Halloween party) and invite your friends and neighbours

2. Have you been impacted enough by the love of God this week, what could you do to open yourself up to it more and what one thing this week could you do to take initiative and give it away to someone else?
3. Think of your life in 3 areas:
 - Leisure
 - Work and
 - Everything else

Why not commit to praying for 5 friends regularly (from any of the above areas of your life) Why not write their names down and share this within your triplet and be accountable to one another for praying for them?