

Life Group notes

Sunday 10th February 2019

Speaker: Prince Laryea

Title: New Eyes to See

Passage: Luke 10: 30-37

The familiar parable of the good Samaritan is a story Jesus told in answer to the question, "Who is my neighbour?" The beaten-up man was probably a Jew, so it is a shock that neither the priest nor the Levite, who were also Jewish, failed to "see" him. Why would they fail to help this man, when the Torah and the Talmud so strongly commanded them to?

The Samaritan, who did stop and help him, would have been considered an enemy. Yet at great cost to himself he rescues the man and pays for him to stay at an inn. At its most basic, this story is a challenge to all of us to notice "the other," to respond to need when it arises, to be those who "see".

Yet there is something else going on in this story. Who are we supposed to be in the story? We would like to think we are the Samaritan, and yet the reality is that we have dysfunction. We fail to respond with compassion.

In fact, we are the broken man who has been beaten up and is in need of a Saviour. And Jesus is the one who, despite the enmity between us, stopped, noticed us, and at great personal cost rescued and healed us. We are not the hero of the story, Jesus is.

The church is not an interview room, where we try our best to make a good impression. The church is a hospital, and we are not the medical staff. This reality helps us to not treat people as "the other". We are all broken people dependent on the grace of God.

What has God saved you from? What is God still saving you from?

We need an Ezekiel 36: 26-27 moment, where God softens our hearts and moves us by his Spirit.

Christianity is not a matter of incremental gains through human effort. We need to do two things: to die to ourselves, and to be filled with and led by the Spirit of God.

Questions for application

1. What is God saying to you through this message, and what are you going to do about it?
2. Are you guilty of "not seeing" sometimes? How do you think that makes God feel?
3. What does it mean if Jesus is the hero of the story? How does that change our view of the church?
4. If the church is a hospital, what are the implications of this?
5. What is God still saving you from?
6. Pray for one another to be filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit.