

## Group Notes 23 October 2011

### *Rule of Life - Tell*

#### Welcome - Ice Breaker

What's your favourite news channel or newspaper and why is that?

**Word** – Luke 10:1-9, 16-20 (also Romans 10:9-15). You will also need the Rule of Life – Tell sheet circulated on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

This reading tells the story of the sending of the 72 (70 NRSV) by Jesus to places he would be going to. The chosen ones were to go in pairs and to travel light. They were to visit houses and pray a blessing of peace on these houses and to eat whatever was put in front of them. If their prayer of peace was rejected then they were to walk away. Jesus told them that whoever listened to them listened to him, and whoever listened to him listened to the one who sent him. Jesus told them he had sent them and that it would be hard work for them to do. He made sure that they knew they might be rejected in some places, but in those circumstances they were to walk away and move on to the next venue.

#### Question 1:

- *What surprises you about the Gospel reading ?*
- *How concerned are you about the differing translations (72 in the NIV translation and 70 in the NRSV)?*
- *Compare this account to the account in Matthew (chapters 9 & 10) of the same event, what differences strike you?*

**Context** – one factor that can hold us back from telling the Gospel to everyone we meet, is that we don't feel that we are qualified for the job. There is a perception that to 'preach' or to speak the Gospel we need either to have had many years of training or to be ordained to do it properly. The 72 (70) sent out didn't have any formal qualifications, they were chosen by Jesus and sent on their way to preach His Word. The Romans reading is very clear about how people won't know the Gospel unless they are told it. The 70 were also sent out in pairs to work, Jesus is clear that preaching, teaching and proclaiming the Gospel is not something we should do alone.

#### Question 2:

- *Do you think that preaching the Gospel is a job only for the clergy to do?*
- *What would be/is your reaction to a lay person (someone not ordained) preaching in church?*
- *How successful do you think team ministry works both practically and spiritually?*
- *What could we do in St Matthew's church to improve team ministry and lay involvement?*

**Confidence** – Jesus gave the 70 specific instructions about what they were to do, including eat everything provided for them. As devout Jews they would have adhered to the strict laws surrounding foods they could and could not eat, for example mixing meat with dairy, seafood and eating with non-Jews. Jesus giving them the command enabled them to eat/socialise with whoever they met, both Jews and Gentiles

#### Question 3:

- *How confident to you feel about speaking the Gospel out?*
- *What about to people who are completely different to you, socially, culturally and educationally?*

**Commitment** – Back to Church Sunday is an annual event promoted by the Church of England nationally. At this event we are encouraged to invite someone to Church with us, someone who may have attended regularly but for whatever reason no longer comes to Church. This event has varying degrees of success and is completely dependent on invitations being offered by members of the congregation.

**Question 4:**

- *In your opinion how successful/or not was Back to Church Sunday this year both nationally and in St Matthew's church?*
- *Express your reasons for forming this opinion*
- *Should outreach events like this be arranged?*
- *What would be your suggestions for alternatives if you feel they shouldn't be arranged?*

**Worship ideas for groups with no musicians.**

Read this hymn as prayer and think while doing that how you can listen to the Lord to hear His call

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save,  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Here I am , Lord Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go , Lord If You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my hearts*

I the Lord of snow and rain I have borne My people's pain  
I have wept for love of them They turn away  
I will break their hearts of stone Give them hearts for love alone  
I will speak My word to them Whom shall I send

*Here I am Lord,...*

I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts are satisfied  
I will give My life to them Whom shall I send

*Here I am Lord....*

**Works/witness.**

- Think of one person you know and commit this week to asking them if they know the Lord Jesus
- Complete the Rule of Life #3 handout