



Pastoral Care

Session 9 – 17 June 2018

Bible Readings

Job 2: 11 – 3: 1-4; Luke 19: 1-10

Sermon Notes

St Mary's Pastoral teams = 30. A wonderful resource. And then there are the home groups and other gatherings where people are noticed and cared for AND the individual acts of kindness. Let's celebrate but also be real. There is still a journey to travel.

Job Job had 3 friends. Have we? Who is alone? Moving to Ely Hilary and I knew nobody! Zacchaeus was on his own for other reasons. Pastoral Care doesn't start with training or a qualification but with friendship and being known and taking time.

Job's friends They have a bad press but..... 1. THEY HEARD ...and responded. 2. THEY JOURNEYEDtime and effort. 3. THEY MET TOGETHER...care is a together thing.

Shocked by Job's condition 1. OUT OF COMFORT ZONE...didn't run. 2. SYMPATHY AND PRESENCE...culturally appropriate caring? 3. THEY SITrather than standing over. 4. TOOK TIME...whatever it takes. 5. SILENCE...rather than advice and sticking plaster prayers.

Job's pain inexpressible and unimaginable. MULTI LAYERED. It takes time before the explosion. EMOTION++++ 'It's how I feel!!! (God can cope with honesty) – We can'tMr Fixit.

Zacchaeus collaborator. TAX COLLECTING- a Roman franchise. ENFORCEMENT? You don't want to know! OUTCAST friendless and unknown. JESUS NOTICES AND KNOWS HIM and invites himself and His followers for tea and a sleepover? ZACCHAEUS = Yahweh remembers or clean and pure. THE GIFT OF BEING USEFUL.

We can ALL hear, see and notice. 1. CARING TOGETHER without gossip. 2. COFFEE CHAT with the isolated. 3. SHARE SKILLS, TIME AND RESOURCES. 4. SHARE OUR HOMES.AND ANYWAY, WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOUR?

Key Quotes

"You can't microwave friendship." *John Ortberg.*

Isolation is as significant to mortality rates as smoking, obesity, high blood pressure and lack of exercise. *Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Golman.*

In the land of the sick, emotions reign supreme, fear is a thought away. *Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Golman.*

"While the emperor may give peace from war on land or sea, he is unable to give peace from passion, grief and envy. He cannot give peace of the heart, for which man yearns more than even for outward peace." *Epictetus. (First century pagan thinker)*

A study at the University of Dartmouth Medical School in America found that elderly heart patients were 14 times less likely to die after surgery if they were socially active and found strength in their religious faith.

Discussion Questions

We live in a time impoverished society. Christians are called to ‘be a blessing to all humankind.’ How can Christians demonstrate a different and attractive alternative? How long have you got?

‘An Englishman’s home is His castle.’ It also probably applies to Scots, Welsh and Irish. As loneliness is now known to be as deadly as smoking and obesity, is there a different way for Christians to use their castles?

The unknown ones. Who are they in and around St Mary’s?

Since sackcloth and ashes isn’t our thing, what culturally appropriate ways might we have of demonstrating our empathy and practical care?

Who is my neighbour? Pastoral care beyond St Mary’s?

Prayer

Thank you Jesus that you have no illusions about me, but take time to notice me, come to my house, eat with me and invite me to collaborate in the growth of your Kingdom.

Living the Life

Noticing others. Transform Ely as you make eye contact with people around you and smile.

Knowing their name. Names are about our identity, our significance. Learn the names of some church members and neighbours. Be interested in them.

Eating together. Jesus spent so much time eating with people he met...

Hanging in there. Caring can take time over a long time.

Pastoral care together. Sharing the load.

Personal Reflection

Read: Job again. Do you feel free to tell it like it is with God or God's friends?

Sit with the picture of Jesus looking up at you, as you crouch half hidden in the tree. How does it feel to be noticed by Jesus? He KNOWS YOU, yet asks to share your company and your food. Useful to Jesus?

Blog, Vlog and Social Media

Please visit the Holy Habits pages on the St Mary's website.

www.stmarysely.org and join the conversation on our [Facebook Group "Ely Team Holy Habits"](https://www.facebook.com/groups/267574210421687) www.facebook.com/groups/267574210421687