

Newsletter 18th July 2021

Sunday's Readings: Romans 8: 18-25

Ps. Andrew Everson will bring us the word this week.

Some Prayers of the people

- Please continue to pray for those in our community who are battling chronic health issues and emotional difficulties. Pray that God will supply the strength, comfort and resources they need.
- Pray for New South Wales as they battle with the outbreaks of Covid19. Pray that good decisions will be made and the people will follow them. Pray for the other states as they are trying to trace contacts of people who have travelled and have tested positive.
- Pray for Andrew as he is recovering. May he have a full and speedy recovery.
- Please continue to pray for our communities, state and nation as we battle with outbreaks of Covid19. Give thanks that where we live is a safe place.
- Pray for safe travel as people return from school holidays. Pray their break was enjoyable and they return refreshed.

Notices

South Pacific Island Service: The South Pacific Islanders will be having their service at 11am on Sunday 18th July. They will also be using the church on Friday and Saturday.

Tarooki: Please join us to celebrate 61 years of camping in Robe. Onsite at 55 Main St. Robe on Sunday November 14th, 2021, at 10.30am for a Thanksgiving Service followed by a catered lunch.
RSVP to tarooki@uvsa.org.au or 0429157270 by November 1st.

Dan Fennell has written a book “The World of the Word. Discipleship from Moab to Macedonia” and it is available to purchase for \$15.00. If you would like a copy, please contact Teresa or Dan (jdfennell98@gmail.com or phone 0413660092)

“Tithe a tin Pray a packet” Thank you for your ongoing support for this worthy cause. Be assured that this is appreciated by the people who have a need. We use a lot of long-life milk, biscuits, baked beans, spaghetti, tea, coffee, tinned meat, tinned meals and packet meals.

Updates: There are forms at the back of the church to update any changes of details or for new members to fill in for name tags and to receive our newsletter by email.

If you have any news you wish to share, please let us know so we may celebrate or pray and offer support for you.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Mark 6:7-13.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷ Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

⁸ These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

“...he **began** to send them out, two by two...” Jesus was teaching his disciples to be evangelists and teachers, not all of them at once, but two at a time and for specific mission. Jesus had called these men to be his disciples, taught them using parables and signs, and now he was teaching them to be teachers. It was on-going, strategic, and intentional. This was supervised, on the job, training. And it is what the church, the body of Christ here on earth, is responsible for today, and must continue to do.

When we read of Jesus sending out the disciples as evangelists and teachers, the key concepts are discipleship (undistracted learning from what is taught) and trust. The disciples had to trust that God would provide for them through the hospitality of the communities they were to visit. They were to travel lightly taking only shoes, a walking stick, and the clothes on their back. They were to depend on others for everything else including food and shelter. Ultimately, they had to depend totally on God.

And they were to trust in the authority given to them by Jesus, an authority to preach and to heal and most importantly to call people to turn back to God. This was a delegated authority given to them by Jesus who in turn draws his authority from the Father. (For example, John 5: 19-20, 6:38-40 and 7:16)

And just as Jesus had been given authority over evil spirits, the disciples too were given this authority. The disciples were to anoint those who were sick with oil, not as a means of curing people with some kind of magic, but as a physical sign of the power and authority of God who brings forgiveness, healing, and wholeness.

And the whole of mission was to be undertaken with order, humbly accepting the hospitality given at one house in a village. They were to avoid creating jealousy or resentment within the community by moving around to different hosts. And although receiving the gospel is an astonishingly life changing encounter with the living God, the gospel isn't an entertainment event, it is ongoing truth and grace, made tangible through person-to-person bonds of friendship and trust.

This focus on community is really important. We may be individually called by Christ and as individuals receive his forgiveness and grace, but the community we belong to has a huge impact on people's capacity to receive the truth. We all are responsible individually and collectively for the kind of community we build and encourage. A community that rejects Christ risks rejection in turn.

The disciples' mission was effective – they preached repentance, they drove out demons and they healed many people.

So, at least in first century Israel, effective ministry required discipline, simplicity and straightforwardness, trust in God, trust in God's authority, the development of on-going personal relationships, and preaching directed at changing hearts and minds. All of which led to release from the powers of evil and much healing as seen in the positive community response.

This kind of effective ministry is very applicable in our context too. We expect that the living God will be present and will act with power and might through the ministry of our church, as Christ sends us all.

Andrew