

Making Apprentices
Hebrews 10:19-25
4th July 2010
Equip @ 10.45
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- The theme today is Making Apprentices.
- Back in the Old days of the Old Testament ... a long, long time ago.
- God only spoke through prophets and moved in a cloud.
- There was a room in the temple which was called the 'Most Holy Place' – like we heard in the reading.
- The room was separated by a curtain which was probably more like a solid wall than made of fabric.
 - Once a year, a high priest entered the 'Most Holy' room on the day of Atonement when he offered a sacrifice for the nation's sins.
- The High Priest was the only special person who could enter that room and meet with God
- When Jesus died on the cross,
 - the curtain dividing this room was torn in two
- so that now, anyone could meet and talk to God directly.... Anyone at all!
 - How amazing is that!
- God didn't want to hide away anymore, but encourage his people to go straight to him so they could have a growing, living relationship with him.
- This is the curtain in the reading that says "And this way takes us through the curtain that is Christ himself.
- God is now saying... come to him directly.

- But... Come to him with pure hearts and confidently through our knowledge of faith.
- We are to keep our hearts pure ... so not getting sucked in when someone makes a smutty remark and being tempted to lower yourself to their level,
 - Or thinking those sneaky thoughts that we know are so wrong!
- We are to keep our consciences free from evil,
 - How difficult is that!
- How many arguments have you had in your mind about whether you should or shouldn't do it!!!!
 - If it starts off withwell I shouldn't really.....then DON'T do it!
 - But it's not easy!
- It also says in the reading ... some people have got into the habit of NOT meeting for worship... ie: not coming to church..
 - Well, it is hard to make it every week, after all... for some people it's the only day they get to spend together.
- But if you miss one week,
- it's then easy to miss another week
- and another week
- until you stop coming completely!
- But how important is God to you?
- Is he worth giving up a couple of hours in the week for?

- And what are you doing instead?
- Is it worth it?
- Do you get the same satisfaction doing that...as you get from spending time with others in God's presence?
- It's hard!
 - It's so hard to get the balance right and we can't always do it on our own.
- We're only human after all!
- But we need help.
- We need support!
- We need encouragement!
- And we definitely need reminding from time to time!
- It's so easy to slip into the everyday life that ties us up with all the work and constant motion around us.
- But we need to stay alert, one day Jesus will return and he won't be impressed if we say...
- Yeh, but I was busy making my garden look lovely,
 - Or but I made it through that pile of ironing!!!
 - All of that won't matter then!
- What does matter is we spend our time, getting an equal balance in what we should be doing and giving God the time he deserves.
- When Jesus left this earth...he left his disciples to spread the news.

- None of them were qualified in high powered jobs of leadership.
- They weren't highly skilled in lecturing.
- But they had been taught by Jesus how to share and live out the good news.
- And they were very good at it!
- And he taught them that if they didn't get anywhere... then to brush the dust from their feet, and to move on...don't waste your time.
- They could have only learnt this from the man himself!
- And so they have passed this on, down through many generations.
 - Right down to our generation... to carry on that work.
 - But we need that teaching too!
- And the only place we can get it is through coming to church regularly, reading our bibles and going to small groups.
- But we also need to be there for one another.
- Encouraging each other in every way possible.
 - How good does it feel when someone here at Christ Church comes up to us and asks how we areor how our week's been?
 - When people show an interest in us, we love it!
- It helps us to feel included,
- to feel loved and to feel we belong.
- It's such a good feeling and it shows that we matter!

- So let's make a point of doing this more often!
- You don't have to talk to everyone, but somebody who you don't usually see and take an interest in them and their lives.
- It really does make a difference!

 • We are well known for our great hospitality here...


- That's because it's been shared, encouraged and followed.

 • We are also recognised for being good at welcoming people.

- Again it's been demonstrated, observed and followed.

 • It's not rocket science to follow the way God wants us to be

- But it's easy to forget!

 • We need to be looking out for each other and guiding each other ... in a caring way!

- And we don't all have to be in leadership to do this stuff.

- We can learn from each other... and everyone matters.

 • We all have an important role to play in this church.

- And it's important that we encourage others to do so too.

- God wants us to train and mentor each other.

- Sharing our thoughts and feelings and finding ways to cope when it gets tough.

 • We all work in different places and go to school in different areas.

- At Imagine we were talking about having a map to mark off all the areas where people from Christ Church work and go to school and we decided it would be huge!
- There are so many people here covering such a huge area!
- We are all taking God's light out ... to not just this community, but nationally.
- Therefore we need to be encouraging, building and guiding each other as we go out into the areas God has given us ... to be disciples for him.
- And dyu know.....the church is a bit like a docking system!
- Where we can come back, week after week to ...re-fuel, seek more advice, gain strength, gain support, speak to our master and re-charge...
- So we can go back out there and carry on our missions
- To be full time Christian workers for God! ... wherever we may be!

Amen