

The VIBE

7th July 2024

WHAT COLOURS OUR BELIEF AND FAITH?

with Rev. Dr. Peter Hall

Bible Reading: Mark 6:1-13 (RSV Bible)

In this reading there two things to consider: the first is the attitude of the people of Nazareth to Jesus as a rabbi and the second is going out in faith trusting in God's provision.

In the first part of the reading, Jesus returns to Nazareth and teaches in the local synagogue. This is a local boy who had spent the first thirty years of his life in that town. People had seen him as a boy and a teen and as a working adult. They would have known him as a carpenter, first of all with Joseph and secondly, as running the family business himself. The reading mentions 'son of Mary' thus indicating that Joseph was dead. Jesus had four brothers and also sisters, a large family that needed caring for. This may be a reason for his ministry not starting until he was thirty years of age.

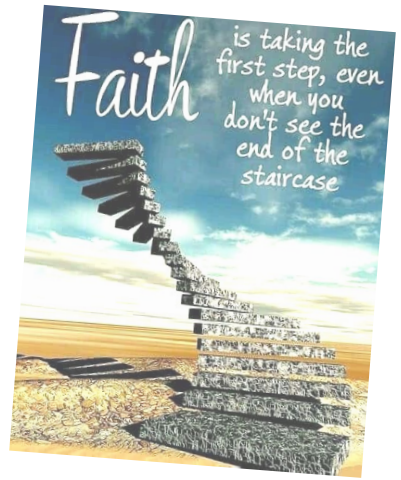
The Greek word used for carpenter is *tekton* which means a *craftsman*. Such a person was very skilled and could build houses or boats as well as general carpentry. In country towns in Australia today one often finds such a person. The people of Nazareth knew Jesus as a carpenter and not as a rabbi filled with the Holy Spirit. It was hard to change their way of thinking of him. This has happened to many Christians. One I can think of spent time in prison, having been a member of a notorious gang in Melbourne. God touched him, filled him with the Holy Spirit, and he became a pastor with a successful healing ministry. People who had known him originally found it difficult to accept the change in him. If we are honest, most of us have had a similar experience with people we had known changing and the need for us to see them in a different light. So it was with Jesus, despite the evidence through his teaching, they could not accept that he was The Messiah.

It is helpful to each one of us to ask ourselves the question ...
"Who do I understand Jesus to be in my life?"

Then let the Holy Spirit speak to you. It also raises the question as to how we evaluate people that we know and meet.

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The second part of the reading is about Jesus sending out the 'Twelve' in ministry and forbidding them to take provisions for the journey. Jesus did empower them to cast out unclean spirits and for their other needs - they were to go out in faith. Can you imagine yourself going out on a preaching journey and not taking a change of underwear or money/ credit card to buy food and accommodation but to trust that God will provide for all your needs? In years gone by I have known young people go out in faith as directed by the Holy Spirit and I have been one of those to help provide for their needs also as directed by the Holy Spirit. To be told to go out in faith is certainly a challenge and not to be done lightly. It is also a test of faith and of knowing when the Lord is speaking to us. Let us pray that each one of us can meet such a challenge.



Amen.
~ Peter Hall ~



Next Sunday in Gympie

We look forward to Rev. David Fanning joining us again next week.

A Spring Hymn-Fest

The next event will be held in Spring on a date to be advised.

Christmas Shoeboxes July Collections

This month we're collecting '**Something Special**'. Nothing too big as they'll need to fit into shoebox-size gift packs. E.g. soft toys, plastic animals, purse/wallet/small bags, stickers, bangles, necklaces, small puzzles, hair ribbons/clips, sunglasses.

Gympie Kitchen Refurbishment

We've been given a preloved kitchen setup - in much better condition than our own. David Wright will be Project Managing the installation.

We're seeking your input regarding layout - particularly those who work in the kitchen and coffee hut areas who can provide practical suggestions.

If you have some ideas, please see David or one of our Church Councilors over the next 2 weeks with Sunday 21st July being the deadline for feedback.

Shine Women's Gympie Conference

Saturday 3rd August from 9am to 3pm at the Stan Baker Hall, 1 College Rd, Southside. The theme is 'Forever Free'. There'll be, teachings three guest speakers, a market, morning tea and lunch. The cost is \$40. Register www.shinewomen.com.au.

Faith and Optimism

When your cup runs over, is it a blessing, or a mess? Is your glass half full or half empty? Do you make difficulties out of your opportunities, or opportunities out of your difficulties? Are you the kind that complains about the noise when opportunity knocks? Do you claim to be an optimist who doubts that being one really helps?

In reading Psalm 23 it occurred to me that King David was a true optimist.

"I am never in need...green pastures...peaceful waters...paths of righteousness... my cup overflows...even though I walk through the dark valley of death, because you are with me, I fear no harm...your rod and staff give me courage." His faith in God enabled him to overcome obstacles that would derail our faith. His faith in God allowed him to see winning possibilities in horrible circumstances. Remember how he faced a lion, a bear, a giant, and a mentally unstable king? Remember how he faced the death of a child, and rebellion within his own family? His faith empowered him to live with optimism and assurance of victory.

When faced with setbacks and difficulties, our reactions reveal whether we are people of faith and optimism, or people of pessimism and defeat. There are three basic differences in the way optimists and pessimists react.



1. The optimist sees a setback as temporary, while the pessimist sees it as permanent. When David's infant child died, he saw it only as a temporary separation. Even after praying and fasting that the child would not die, his faith in God never wavered. He could not bring the child back, but he said, "I will go to him" (2 Sam. 12:23). Even death is not permanent for those with faith in God.
2. The optimist sees difficulties as specific, while the pessimist sees them as pervasive. David's sin with Bathsheba was not allowed to destroy his whole life and eternity. He messed up big time, but he dealt with it as the specific sin it was, repented, and went on to live as a man with the heart of God. His failure with Bathsheba did not cause his whole life to be a failure.
3. Optimists view events as external, while pessimists interpret events as personal. King Saul's repeated attempts to kill David was seen by David as rebellion against God, not him personally. He would not raise his hand against Saul because he still saw him as the Lord's anointed. Difficulties are most often simply external circumstances, not personal attacks.

Learn from David to live by faith and optimism. Look upon the inevitable setbacks that you face as being temporary, specific, and external.

President-Elect of The Uniting Church in Australia



The President is the Spiritual Leader and Representative of the Uniting Church across Australia.

Rev. Charissa Suli has been declared President-elect for the next 3-year period. She is a second generation Tongan Australian and, significantly, the first woman of colour to hold this position.

As the seventeenth President, Charissa is the youngest person and the fourth woman to serve in this role.

Charissa has come from the position of National Consultant with the Assembly. She has more than 20 years experience in cross cultural and intercultural ministry in the Uniting Church. She was ordained in 2014 and served in congregational ministry at Dapto Uniting Church in NSW.

In her acceptance speech Charissa stated ... "This is the Uniting Church I have come to know that has given me the space to grow and be challenged, the opportunity to try new things, to call me into mission and to exercise my discipleship and affirm my gifts as a leader, even if I looked different or did things that were different from the status quo."

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

Church Office... M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email.

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250



UNITING 4570
Better together

Offering & Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 64 • Children 10 • Facebook 116 • Youtube 7

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,873.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)