



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

4TH JULY 2021



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*Our Saviour does not save all by himself. Our Saviour delegates his work.
Our Saviour makes disciples.*

Would you shout louder?

Most people live their lives not wanting to rock the boat or stand out. We certainly don't want to look stupid or have people thinking badly about us. But in this story we see a man who couldn't care less about what people thought. He was blind, he was desperate, and he was within shouting distance of someone who could do something about it - Jesus. So, he shouted! He shouted so much that those around him reprimanded him as he was obviously 'causing a scene!' But that just made him more determined, and he shouted louder.

Interestingly, this shouting took place on the outskirts of Jericho – another place where shouting brought an amazing victory (Joshua 6). In this case, however, Bartimaeus wasn't shouting for the walls of a city to fall down but rather that he would be able to regain his sight.

Jesus takes note of this commotion, calls him over and restores his sight because of the faith that was shown. The fact is that the shouting wasn't empty – it was faith-filled



shouting. In fact, it was the faith that caused the shouting. It was faith that led Bartimaeus to throw aside his outer garments, to jump to his feet and to come to his Lord. It was faith that healed him, and it was because of his faith that he then followed Jesus.

I wonder if we would have done the same. When people looked at us and reprimanded us for making a scene, would we have continued? Would we have risked our reputation to shout for our Saviour? Jesus is looking for those who, filled with faith, will call to Him – will shout out in desperation to Him. God will not ignore a faith-filled cry from His children!

Prayer: Lord, help us to rise up in faith and cry out to You. We need Your saving power in our lives and we cry out that You would bring down the walls that oppose us and bring us freedom in Your name so that we can follow You with our whole hearts, in Jesus' name, Amen. – Andy Taylor | Seeds of the Kingdom

A Humble Man | By Sister Elizabeth Richards (From the Mance Window)

We had only just moved into our bungalow when Stephen called on us. He warmly welcomed us into the village and told us that he belonged to the local Methodist church. Stephen told us that he believed in practical Christianity - that was, doing the "Word" and not just preaching it.

We learned afterwards that this caring man was always out and about doing what he considered to be God's work. He called on newcomers to the village and did his best to make them feel welcome. In times of sickness or sorrow, Stephen would be there, not just to offer comforting words, but to give any practical help that was needed. It was known that many times Stephen used his own money to help others. He never achieved greatness in the worldly sense. He was not highly skilled or an intellectual. He simply went about doing good. To be in his presence was to feel something of the love of God. As the years went by, my husband and I came to appreciate more and more Stephen's qualities, and also those of the families whose lives had centred on the production of coal in that village.

"In as much as you have ministered to the least of My brethren, you have done it unto Me," Stephen certainly was a true follower, disciple of the word of Jesus.

Sunday 4th July; Lectionary Bible Readings.

2 Samuel 5; 1-5, 9-10; David becomes king of Israel and Judah and makes Jerusalem his capital.

2 Corinthians 12; 2-10; Paul speaks of his painful "thorn in the flesh", from which he has prayed to God for deliverance.

Mark 6; 1-13; Jesus expands his ministry by calling disciples to assist him in his work.

Theme; We have a God who is so secure, so serene, that God's reign is able to be delegated to us. Just as Jesus called disciples, commissioning them to do his work, so Jesus continues to call disciples and equip them to be about his ministry.

Encountering Mark.

Today's gospel is Jesus, commissioning, and instructions of his disciples. Note that Jesus sends them out to do what he himself did - preach, teach, heal, and exorcise demons. This Messiah does not work alone, does not expect to accomplish his goals by himself. He calls ordinary folk to share in his work.

A safe reflective space for Lament

Saturday 10th July, at **St. David's Church, 48 Allen's Rd., Allenton, from 9:30 to 11:30am**. Morning tea will be available. There is no charge. Contact Johanna on 03 307 0200 for further information.

The practice of lamenting is a healthy expression of our grief with a wide range of emotions, such as anger, frustration, and pain. This opportunity may be of interest to you, in light of recent local events and events you have experienced in the past that have significantly impacted on your life. The invitation is to come to a safe reflective space and practice the art of Lament.

The safe space for reflection we are providing will give you an opportunity to come, to grieve, express and engage with events in our lives using a variety of options, such as: writing, drawing, crafts, light a candle, pray, sing, cry, yell, sit quietly, or have tea or coffee.

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 6th July

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | Welcome to all pre-school children. A time for friendships, fun & support.

1:00 pm | Steady As You Go | Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being..

St. John's Methven

Tuesday 6th July

7:30 pm | St. John's Focus group | Meeting in the lounge. All welcome

Friday 9th July

St Johns Brick Club 3:15-5:00 pm on Fridays after school during the term '**Exploring God with Lego**'. Contact Jayne 0274678105

Contacts for the Parish

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This Sunday 4th July *is our Parish service at St John's Methven*. It's the first Sunday in July (already!) so we will have a shared Lunch to follow worship - a good chance to catch up and share fellowship together

July Sunday Services

4 th July	10:30 am	St. John's Methven Parish Service	Rev. John Titlow
11 th July	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Worship Team
18 th July	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Silvia Purdie
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Neville Burns
25 th July	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven with Staveley Combined	Pastor Paul Eden

Prayer

Jesus, you do not work alone. You reach out and call ordinary folk to be your disciples. We thank you for your graciousness in calling us. Give us what you need to be faithful disciples. You have given us good work to do. Keep giving us the gifts we need to do your work. Amen