

Aim: To set NKMC folk apart as disciples and to encourage them to be the best version of themselves in Jesu as we can be in order that we can mix with the world full of confidence in Jesus to bring the Wild Goose to the 80% and life to the 20%

Theme: Transformation

Song 1 How deep is the Fathers Love for me

Song 2 Spirit of the living God

Song 3 All I once held dear

Call to Worship Psalm 42:1- 4

Hymn – Mighty to Save (StF 627)

Prayers of Adoration and Praise

Loving God,

For the countless ways

You `ve transformed people`s lives,

Restoring and renewing,

We praise you.

For bringing good out of evil,

Hope out of despair,

And healing to the sick,

We worship you.

We thank you for our own

Experience of renewal,

The difference you have made

To us personally,

Giving us joy, peace, hope,

Strength and fulfilment.

Teach us never to underestimate what you can do,

Nor to give up on any person,

Including ourselves,

However hopeless things may seem.

Help us to live each day in the knowledge

That your purpose continues.

Work in us through your Spirit,

And finish within us your new creation.

We praise you for your unfailing love

And faithfulness which endures forever,

Trusting you for the future,

Assured of your blessing still to come.

In Jesus` name. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

in a secular age –

a time when many dismiss the claims of the gospel as nonsense,

or as irrelevant to daily life – we tend to assume that no-one

will be open to the message of your love.

Forgive us then for not speaking out

And sharing our convictions

When the opportunity arises,

We keep quiet for fear of being misunderstood or causing offence.

Forgive us for not sowing the seeds of your love

Which can germinate in unexpected places,

And can transform others` lives.

Remind us that you are able to achieve

More than we can ask or even think of,

And so help us to play our part in making you known.

Please forgive us

For our narrow horizons

And limited vision.

In Jesus` name.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*If we confess our sins,
God is love
And will forgive our sins.
Our sins are forgiven.*

Amen

Lords Prayer

Hymn - I serve a risen Saviour (MP 295)

Bible Reading - John 17:6-19

Bible Reading - 1 John 5:9-13

Hymn – O breath of life, come sweeping through us. (StF 391)

Sermon - Richard

I have to Apologise to Rev Tony Graff

- *Safeguarding,*
- *Not principle but process*
- *Thought distortion*
- *Safeguarding and accountability*
- *Sin and evil*
- *Ian Wright program – footballer and tv pundit*
- *Violence in the home me personally.*
- *An act of violence perpetrated by a man against a women every 6 seconds. This morning I am going to focus onto Men but ofcourse it is all equally applicable to women and children.*

In our reading from Johns Gospel Jesus sets his disciples apart from the world

- *John 17:6-8 6 'I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world.*
- *I have revealed you, Important - this word you in the Greek is "your name" and in the language of those times your name includes your Nature*
- *Revealed Gods Name and his nature to his disciples the reading continues*
- *They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.*
- *Then in Verse 19 John says*

- **John 17:19** For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.
- sanctified - set apart, make Holy

So Jesus is saying something really important here

- *you gave me these disciples, they were yours but you gave them to me. I revealed your name and your nature to them. I set myself apart from the World so that they too may be set apart*
- *this is important as we think of ourselves here this morning as disciples. Jesus has revealed our Lord and his nature to us and we are set apart from the world*
- *How amazing is that.*
- **lets just try an analogy for a moment I am not sure it works but lets try.**
- *Heinz baked beans/ other brands of beans, other products and food types supermarket/employees/customers*
- *We are set apart from the world*
- **John 17:19** For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.
- sanctified - set apart, make Holy

Point 1 - how are we different from the world

- One of the worlds theories was written by a man called Maslow in 1943
 - Pyramid of the hierarchy of human needs
 - Self Actualisation – is to be the best version of yourself you can possibly be
- As Christians we recognise that every man or woman has the propensity to allow or even welcome evil to overcome their soul and their mind

Hierarchy of Human Needs –Maslow 1943



Point 1 - how are we different from the world – cont'd

- *how many examples do we need,*
 - *the papers, the news, social media are just full of stories of men's corruption, racism, abuse of women and children, violence and misuse of wealth and power. Women too.*

- *How much evidence do we need. are full. Even young men in school are capable of the most wretched sin and evil*
- *yet all men, young middle aged or old have the ability to follow Jesus and leave sin and evil behind them*
- *Jesus turns Maslow on his head when he calls us to follow him.*

Jesus Turns Maslow upside down 2202 years ago



Priority No 1
To be the best version of oneself, one can be
Needs Jesus to change our hearts and minds
And souls

So as a visible people who acclaim Jesus as their saviour we have to be an example of Godliness in this world

- *The best version of ourselves that we can be – as church as Christian and as ourselves*
- *and even here sin and evil have penetrated and continues to endeavour to penetrate our society.*
- *We have not been vigilant and our need of safeguarding procedures is evidence enough of that.*
- *But we learn and today we are exemplar in our procedures*
- *you see we have to be set apart and we need to be conscious of sin and evil in our own community but equally vigilant about the world in which we live.*
- *In our reading from 1John5 in v5 we read: **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** ⁵ **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.***

Point 2 - what difference does this make for the world

- *Well first we must simplify the problem. Men or women or children. We have to conclude its mainly men*
- *Is it all men - emphatically NO*
- *Is it primarily men who commit and think sinful and evil acts and thoughts*
- *Emphatically yes.*
- *so for a moment lets say that 20% of the male species are responsible for 80% of the acts which are against the interests of the majority.*
-

Point 2 - what difference does this make for the world – cont'd

- *That means 80% of males, 100% of females and almost all young people under the age of puberty have the desire for the Kingdom of heaven although they may see it as something quite different.*
- *So you see there is hope for the world, the vast majority desire and seek the Kingdom of heaven,*
- *There is hope too for people of the Faith because we know that to reach the kingdom of heaven and to enter into it the world has to turn Maslow theory upside down and line up their view of self actualisation with the learning and adopting the teaching of our Lord and master Jesus Christ*
- *The upside down triangle*
- *Jesus says in John6:33 - ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Point 3 - how should we as an internet church, in the internet age be responding to the world in the post covid age

- *Well it seems to me that first we must purify ourselves and root out anyone who is wilfully bent on sin or evil from within our community*
- *We must recognise that our community is a target for people who wish harm to others because we trust and love each other.*
- *But this love must mean being prepared to open our hearts and souls to each other to ensure our purity and our holiness in the love of Jesus Christ*
- *But we must always too recognise that this Holiness is always under threat from our human Nature who has the ability to distort our thinking and lead us to make sinful decisions.*

Point 3 cont'd

- *Anyone who has tried dieting will bear witness of the minds ability to thought distortion. The mind's ability to turn a wise thought into one that is not in the your own best interest or of those who we share our lives with.*
- *So together we must hold each other to account and we need to welcome this constant review of our way of life.*
- *But also in our daily life we must seek out the 80% of males who seek the kingdom of heaven and explain Jesus theory of his way of life.*
- *How he puts our thinking our priorities and our way of living at the base of the triangle and that all good things flow from there.*
- *How he sets the good apart from the evil, so evil cannot hide.*

Conclusion - we must ensure that sin is held at bay in our community by being accountable to each other, by living in Jesus and he in us each and every day each and every week each and every year but also that we share with the world the upside down nature of the Methodist Way of life and that when we seek the Kingdom of heaven we find it by following Jesus. When we find our way to follow Jesus he sets us visibly apart from sin and evil, to ensure that good triumphs over all.

WE DO THIS:

- by living the MWOL*
- by embracing change not looking back.*
- by meeting together frequently to discuss when we have been close to Jesus*
- By sharing our love for Jesus, our joy of the kingdom and the empowerment of sharing in eternal life with him.*
- In this way the People called Methodists will flourish in the Love of God and the Holy Spirit (Wild Duck) and the world where we meet it will become more like the Kingdom of Heaven.*
- In this way we will see Men flocking to our Churches seeking release for their relationship with the Wild Duck*

I want to close with reading a song from the Psalmist – who was David the Shepherd boy chosen by God to be David the King of Israel

Psalm 1 :

1 Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked

or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,

and who meditates on his law, day and night.

3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither –

whatever they do prospers.

4 Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff

that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

*6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. Amen*

Hymn – Gods Spirit is in my heart (StF 404)

Prayer of Thanks

Prayer of dedication of our gifts

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn – To God be the Glory (StF 94)

Closing Prayer and Blessing.

*Go, and know that the Lord goes with you: let him lead you each day into the quiet places of
your heart, where he will speak with you;*

*know that he loves you and watches over you, that he listens to you in gentle understanding,
that he is with you always, wherever you are and however you may feel:*

and the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be ours for ever and ever.

Amen.