Lent 2022: 'Christian' - The Jesus Way Part 3 - Listen and Being Sent (Acts 13 v.1-5 & 14 v.21-28)

1. The Way In…

++Stephen

"Good news…"

- Jesus Galilean ministry (Mk. 1 v.14-15)
- The 1st Mark of Mission of the Anglican Community
- The Church in Antioch - **born out of disruption** (Acts 11 v.19-20) (cf: Acts 6 v.8 - 8 v.3) to be the **focal point to the fulfilment of Jesus' words of the growth of the Church** "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1 v.8)

2. The 'BELLS' Model: Five Habits and Five Values

Habits	Values
Bless: 'I will bless three people this week, at least one of whom is not a member of our church'	**Generous**
Eat: 'I will eat with three people this week, at least one of whom is not a member of our church'	**Hospitable**
Learn: 'I will spend at least one period of the week learning Christ'	**Christlike**
Listen: 'I will spend at least one period of the week listening for the Spirit's voice'	**Spirit-led**
Sent: 'I will journal throughout the week about all the ways I alerted others to the universal reign of God through Christ'	**Missional**

3. The Habit of Listening for the Spirit's Voice

Three Examples from the Church in Antioch…

i. Three tangible **signs** - *"proclaiming the Lord Jesus"; "the hand of the Lord was with them"; "the grace of God was seen"* (Acts 11 v.20-23; cf. 1 Cor. 12 v.3)
ii. Gave funds to the Jerusalem Church after the **prophecy** by Agabus (Acts 11 v.27-28)
iii. **Set apart** Barnabas and Paul (Acts 13 v.2)

How to Hear and Know the Spirit's Voice

Hear	Know
His Written Word (the Bible) - 2 Tim. 3 v.16-17; Heb. 4 v.12 **His Spoken Word/Whisper** (Gk: 'rhema'/Heb: 'ruach') - Mt. 4 v.4 A direct prompting - 1 Kgs. 19 v.12 Through **creation** - Ps. 19 v.1-4 Other people (e.g prophecy) - 1 Cor. 14 v.3	***"My sheep know my voice"*** - Jn. 10 v.4 **Filters…** Scriptural? In line with God's character? Wise? In tune with my character? Seek trusted counsel?

A personal example…

No magic formula…

Learnt by practice…

Some ways to start…

4. The Habit of Being Sent

A sending God: Prophets (Heb. 1 v.1)…Jesus (Jn. 1 v.16, 16 v.5)…The Holy Spirit (Jn. 14 v.16, 16 v.7)…His Followers Then and Today (Mt 28 v.19-20; Jn. 17 v.18; Acts 1 v.8)

Examples from the Church in Antioch…

i. Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13 v.1-3)

ii. A community sent out into their city (Acts 11 v.19ff)

Your **'Frontline'**: *"an everyday place where you live, work, study, or play and where you're likely to connect with people who aren't Christians"*

Questions to ask…

- How have I seen God's hand this week at work on my 'Frontline'?
- What is God teaching me on my 'Frontline'?
- What do I sense He might be doing here?
- How does my faith change how I view this place?
- How can Church help me on my Frontline?

5. Summary

"You will never change your life until you change something you do daily. The secret of your success is found in your daily routine." (John Maxwell)

One word: Intentionality

6. Weekly Plan

BLESS: Whom did I bless this week?

EAT: Whom did I eat with this week?

LEARN: What did I learn or relearn about Christ this week?

LISTEN: What did I hear from the Holy Spirit this week?

SENT: Where were you sent by God to minister His love to others this week?