

God Sends: A People of the Cross



Review: We have heard that God sends us to take part in his mission, and we used the image of a car:

God sends: a people like us – we can drive the car and make the journey as Thomas and Peter did

God sends: a people with a message – the message is the chassis and body of the car

God sends: a people to every place – the destination on the map or in the Sat Nav

God sends: a people filled with the Spirit.

The question now is: what will the drive be like?



Discuss:

- To be sent by Jesus is to walk the way of the cross, of self-denial, embracing the cost of being part of Jesus' mission. Does this language of cost surprise you? How does it make you feel?
- The cost is physical, emotional and social. In 2 Corinthians 11 Paul 'boasts' of the hardships he has suffered. Can you see each of those costs in his life? Can you see them in your own life or of those you know?
- Bishop Steven Croft writes of the danger of removing any sense of commitment, obligation, demand or difficulty from the Christian life and discipleship in an attempt to make the Christian faith attractive; and of an emphasis on benefits but not responsibilities¹. Do you agree that this 'watered-down gospel of weak commitment' is unfaithful to the teaching and practice of Jesus and to the Church through the ages? What can we do about it?



Pray : For those who face physical persecution; for those who are finding the way of the cross difficult and may be considering giving up; for yourselves, and for us a church, that we might be a people of the cross who put Jesus first and ourselves second.

Sunday 29th October 2017

¹ Steven Croft, Jesus' People: What the Church Should Do Next, Church House Publishing 2012