

In terms of the Kingdom of God, how much do you see yourself as an insider? Or maybe you see yourself as an outsider? Or are you both?!

We need to be first hand disciples, in order to be first hand missionaries. This is to not being only spoon-fed information about God, but to dwell in His presence.

Read John 15. 4-9

Rob took us through looking at the journeys of Jonah and Paul. Both men had many similarities in calling and journeys to reach others in discipleship.

Jonah is called to a place called Ninevah, which was known to have many bad people. Jonah doesn't want to go, even taking a boat in the opposite direction. God sends a storm to stop Jonah and then a way to carry out his missional calling. Jonah's heart is not for those people God wants him to reach and isn't best pleased that his efforts have caused people to repent and receive mercy.

Paul is changed from being very much in opposition to followers of Jesus, to coming to faith through his meeting the resurrected Jesus and the miraculous events that take place. Paul is called to lead the early church and to disciple across the nations. He spent the rest of his life going to other nations and telling people about Jesus, through much persecution and ends up writing most of the New Testament.

Rob pointed out that Paul is the fulfilment of Jonah, through Jesus Christ our Messiah. The mercy Jesus showed others, even though he was crucified and was persecuted for us. This mercy was imparted into Paul's heart and he accepted his calling to extend God's mercy to others and other nations.

We are called to love the nations of people of the world. This is the heart of the great Commission.

Acts 1.8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

We should also extend that same love and mercy that God has given us through Jesus to our neighbours and the nations (all people groups).

In order to help us with this, Rob reminded us of what Paul said in Romans 8.3-5 about remaining in the Holy Spirit. In verse 5 it says - **For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**

Read Luke 10.25-37 The Good Samaritan.

In this parable Jesus answers an expert in the law. The story shows us that we are not to judge others, we are called to "love your neighbours as yourself". Also he shows us that it's not what people group we are from that matter, but the state of our heart towards our neighbours.

The expert in the Law asked Jesus in verse 29 "And who is my neighbour?" He wanted clarity, in order that he could justify himself, as he didn't have a heart for all people he came across.

Jesus then implies that people you have a chance to care for, are your neighbours. In referring to the good Samaritan helping the man in need (even though they were from opposing people groups), Jesus told us that we should "Go and do likewise".

Acts 17.26-28 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.

Rob told us how we are all outsiders. We have been drawn inside, not because of what we have figured out, but because of how Jesus Christ has changed everything. He also explained how Paul left the confidence in himself behind and relied on his Heavenly father to direct him, eager to tell anyone in any nation about the good news of Jesus and the powerful work of the Holy Spirit on his heart.

Paul said "follow me, as I follow Christ". Let us follow Jesus and follow Paul in extending God's love and good news to those near and far, that we come across and have the chance to care for.

Colossians 3. 11-14 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.