

Unpacking the Preach

Date Sunday 3rd October 2021
Sermon Title Thanksgiving & Prayer
Bible Passage Philippians 1:1-6

Recapping the preach

On his upcoming Ordination Nick had been reflecting on his and the church families journey up until this point. He took inspiration and guidance from Paul's joy at remembering his brothers and sisters with joy as those who had partnered with him in the gospel, and from Paul's letter to the Thessalonian's "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, acknowledging those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who warn you...Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work" (1 Thess 5:11-13).

Nick reflected on several people who had impacted his Christian walk and influenced his call to Ministry, and shared these experiences highlighting how they had modelled transformed lives and been Christ to him and others along the way. Nick spoke of Planting seeds which grow in Gods timing (Nan who always gave thanks), The power of testimony and living a transformed life (Rose & Leanne), Warm welcomes and loving attitudes (Robert & Jacqui), Protecting and nurturing faith (Horace & olive).

All these things made Christ real to him, and time was given throughout to recall those who we wanted to give thanks and pray for in our experiences around our own journeys. Takeaways for the message were 1. To discover the precious gift of all that Jesus offers, must be entered into together with the body of Christ, your new family 2. This precious gift must be shared with family, friends and colleagues who may be ready to receive it 3. Jesus is a precious gift that if received freely must result in a transformed life, whereby we chose to love and not hate.

• Questions for reflection

- Can you recall when you last thanked a brother or sister in Christ for their love and support?
- What prompted you and what was it that they modelled?
- How much importance do you place on the idea of partnering with others in the gospel? (Phil 1:5) can you think why you should not?

- Give thought to the character of Christ from what we know about his ministry on earth from the gospel accounts; What part of his nature stands out the most?
- In what ways have you seen others model this? and what opportunities have you had, or do you see within the church today to share the Father's love with each other and the lost?
- What areas within the church here at KBC (or whatever your local church is) could need encouraging, giving thanks for and praying into?
- How can you be the person that plays a part in this?

• **Going Deeper**

- In verse six, what is Paul confident of and what is the basis of his confidence? In the Christian life, is our growth and perseverance God's work, our work, or both? What has the Bible to say on this subject... (see John 6:37-40; 8:31; 17:6-17; Mark 4:1-20; Rom. 8:30; 2 Pet. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:22-23; Heb. 3:14; 6:4-6; 1 John 2:19; 5:13).

Response

- Give time over to remember those who have partnered/are partnering with you in your walk, give thanks for them and pray for their gifts to be used for the glory of God.
- Encourage someone in their faith by being Christ to them in some way...what gifts has God given you to use?
- Allow the Holy Spirit to highlight what areas of service to the Lord's plans you are called to. Give thanks for the opportunities to serve and be part of that body that brings life to those who need Christ in their lives.

Prayer pointers

- To be kept grafted into the branches of the vine that make up the body of Christ.
- Seek the very nature of God in Christ through the Spirit so the gospel is made known and real.
- Chose to love one another by the grace of God and not to hate one another, even if there are disagreements on Biblical issues.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>