

Life Group Notes

Sunday 24th March 2024

Speaker: Sean Green

Title: Signpost Sunday 3

This is the third signpost Sunday since Sean returned from sabbatical, pointing out his sense of what God is doing amongst us.

Threshing Mountains: Isa 41v14-15

The prophetic picture is of God using his people, currently in exile, to overcome obstacles and adversity in order to establish his coming kingdom. The worm speaks of our smallness, and relative irrelevance. Threshing speaks to the hard work of discipleship. And mountains as a metaphor, representing three seemingly immovable, systematic, obstacles on our town:

- Unbelief – in the person and work of Jesus, and His gospel
- Poverty – financial, relational, spiritual
- Prejudice – Ethnicity, Wealth and Biological Sex

Making Disciples: Matt 28v19-20

A definition of a disciple is *'a Christ centred, Spirit filled believer, in active obedience to the Christ'*. But here's the thing: being a disciple isn't enough, Jesus commanded us to be disciples who make disciples. *'Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others'*. 2Tim2v2 NLT *"Until you have formed Christ in someone, you have done nothing"*. Anon

Creating Spaces: Acts 2v46

The early church had a rhythm of meeting together in the temple courts and also in smaller settings, homes. Most likely, it was in homes that the heavy lifting of making disciples, who make disciples, took place. Our temple court (JMA) is filling up, we need to create more space in the Autumn term (Jump Sunday 6 Oct?). We also need to open up more homes so they in turn become spaces where Christ is being formed in us. We also sense that we need open up some homes outside of Reading to church plant (Slough? Mortimer? mainland Europe)?

Suggested Questions:

1. Can these systemic mountains really be threshed by the Church in Reading? Discuss!
2. What tools / language do you use for making 'verb' Christians (proper disciples)?
3. Why is JMA capacity not primarily a problem to be solved but a means to form Christ in us?