

Lets go to the other side

So it's twenty10. What does this year hold for you? How will you respond to it? What plans have you got for changing things, making things, mending something that fell apart in 2009? What does God have in store for you? How will you respond to what comes your way?

How we can take a hold of your future in a positive way? How can we take hold of our future as a C3 Church in a positive way?

How we can let go of that which holds us from the past to grab the future? How can we move on into the new year with Success?

Matthew 14:22-36

Outline of Story

Jesus just fed 5000 people and then dismissed them. He sent them away because He needed to get alone. He said to the disciples you go to the other side. They had a vision, a clear undeniable vision of the future. They were going to the other side.

Often we think of vision in terms of great plans, amazing new things but often and quite often at that, vision is more like just the direction we are heading.

It might not look grand, most probably isn't but is a vision none the less.

When you start walking in a direction things happen. The disciples start to struggle against the wind. The wind is contrary to them. There is no guarantee you wont meet difficult winds situations etc. But we are going to the other side. Just because you hit trouble doesn't mean you are not in the will of God.

The level of opposition is a clear determiner of the value of the prize at the other side of the lake.

Jesus says this to the disciples 'you're going to the other side'. Then at about 8 at night Jesus sees them straining to get across the lake. He doesn't rush to their aid. Until about 3 in the morning.

Why does God give us a vision and almost seem like he leaves us to fend for ourselves?

Its not like we couldn't use His help. I mean we aren't the best at getting everything right. But God has a plan. Jesus is trying to form you into a certain kind of a person rather than just get you what you want all the time.

As a Christian, sometimes we just need to put our heads down and work. We need to have an attitude that says 'regardless of whether God helps or not, I am going to go to the other side'.

Sometimes our lazy souls just want God to do it for us. Sometimes we look at the blessings other people are getting or have and say hasn't God blessed you.

Somewhere down the line you have to do something with your life.

Don't just come to God and say now I have my miracle worker. I use to do this or that now I just trust God. I can just throw my life to the wind and let what ever will be will be.

God wants us to tend the garden we have. What we tend feeds us. He gave us a garden, but there is one part that belongs to God. We have to look after the garden God has given us. It takes decisions, to make your life work.

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

New Years resolutions – about the year....We make a resolve to do something. Earnestness.... And the rest of the dictionary of the word resolve or resolution is 'a declaration, decision, motion, ruling, a promise, decree, solution, to determine, to decide, make your mind up, to solve something again, to rule over or on something, to announce, to make judgment over something, to give order to something

If you don't become resolute... you will not fulfill the intention you have. Intention is not enough to getting a job done. God wants us to finish what we start.

Jesus wanted the disciples to get to the other side. We need to believe that we can do it.

Luke 9:51

Jesus had to be steadfast. He was in the pursuit of the will of God.

Ezekiel 3:9 I will make your forehead like the hardest stone.

When you become resolute you cut off options.

**When you have Christ on the inside
Not even a raging seas will stop you
Not even a lack of food will stop you
Not even an inability to pay taxes will stop you
Not even the nails of an enemy will hold you to that cross
not even a tomb will keep you under.**

We live in a world when we can bail quickly out of things. Relationships, situations and we bail. We blame all sorts of things, our childhood, that child you gave me, that wife you gave me.

2 Tim 2:3 You must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. How do you endure, YOU GO THROUGH IT!.

Joke – woman falling through deck after deck of the ship... then captian finds her just dusting herself off.... Captain... how did you do that... 'Woman says 'I've been through hard ships before'.

God wants you to get to the other side.

God is in the process of making you into a person who has compacity, patience.

When you meet a little pain, stand up, be strong. Don't be embarrassed. Christians are often known for what they don't do. **Christians should be known for what they do!**

Be strong, be bold, don't be embarrassed. God has a plan for you to succeed in 2010.

Endure... see the journey through. We can't afford to think in retreat mode. Would not it be great to hear the bells or sounds of church again calling out to us to come to church. Muslims influence their world at 4 in the morning.

Luke 9:52

Proverbs 24:16 THE RIGHTEOUS man falls 7 times... Hang on a righteous man falls seven times...he falls. Good people fall. Seven times is a metaphor for many times. A righteous person knows how to get up.

The RIGHTEOUS person knows how

They know how to forgive, to live lightly. They know how to hold not onto wrongs. They know how to let go of offence, they know how to give generously, they know how to think good thoughts, they know how to train their minds not to sulk, they know how to tell their minds to think positively, they know how to read their bible when they don't want to, they know how to love the unloveable, they know how to bring peace, they know how to settle things, make things right, fix things and if they don't or can't, they know who can and will help them fix them.

2009:

It might not have worked. It might not have worked the time before. But you can get it happening again. You might have tried to give up smoking and failed...

1. write your vision down – don't just think it
your vision is the sum total of your needs and desires in your life

Figure out your vision

- a. Grade your spiritual life 1 -10
- b. Ministry life – am I reaching out to others or am I leading a self-absorbed life.
- c. Mental life – are you anxious, depressed, concerned – make a decision to get out of that. Am I reading a book each week, am I exercising my brain
- d. Emotional life
- e. Relational life – how am I getting on, do I need to make some corrections, do you need to talk more with your kids, talk less, What can you do? God will help you if you are moving.
- f. Physical life – weight control, fitness, clothing – if it gets away on you it's hard to get it all back. Your mouth, what you say and don't say.
- g. Financial life – getting out of debt, 'eat what you burn, spend what you earn.'

2. Make Goals

We are going to the other side. We are about setting goals for this year. We are going to this by then. ON February 7th we have Vision Sunday. It is the most important service in our whole year as a church. It's where we think big, dream big and believe God for the year we have. 2010 what will it be. Come down on 7th February and find out.

When making goals, under project over perform.

3. Plan – this is how I am going to do this. People don't move when they don't know where they are going.
4. Team – who is going to be part of your team to get to the other side in 2010
5. Do it – do it on a day by day by day... it becomes a lifestyle choice.

The spirit you attack this with, you attack your resolution with, is with faith.

Mark 9:23 all things are possible to him who believes. How do you see yourself like?

You are going to the other side. All things are possible.