

Haverhill Methodist Church 24th January 2021

Worship at Home resource

Welcome

Hello to all of you using this Worship at Home service, I hope you are well. I am pleased to be leading the service today for you and those who will be live on a video call.

Today we will be thinking about how we can choose to have a 'got to' attitude or a 'get to' attitude, and how having a 'get to' attitude is the more positive mindset and has so many benefits for us and those around us. More on that later on!

Call to worship and prayer

Illuminate youth group have been learning about persecuted Christians around the world and how so often they have very limited access to the Bible. Many of our Christian brothers and sisters need to memorise passages of the Bible as they do not have a Bible of their own, and it can even be illegal to be found with a copy; with the risk of beatings, imprisonment or death. Each week we have been memorising passages of Scripture, just as they do. Our challenge this week is to recite a passage in your church service. In our video call Joshua will be reciting Psalm 150 from memory as our call to worship. It is a great psalm of praise to God, so I invite you to read that now.

We pray...Father God as we worship together as one church family, we praise you. You are high above the heavens and worthy of all praise. You are creator God, all powerful and all loving. Jesus we lift you up with our praise and worship today and always; King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Redeemer, Saviour and Friend. There is no-one like you and we are so grateful to know, love and serve you. We praise you with all we are, mind, body, soul and spirit. Amen

Song Let everything that has breath praise the Lord

Let everything that
Everything that
Everything that
Has breath praise the Lord

Praise You in the morning
Praise You in the evening

Praise You when I'm young
And when I'm old

Praise You when I'm laughing
Praise You when I'm grieving
Praise You every
Season of the soul

If we could see
How much You're worth
Your power
Your might
Your endless love
Then surely we would
Never cease to praise

Let everything that
Everything that
Everything that
Has breath praise the Lord

CCLI:8026 Matt Redman ©1997 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Talk

This week I read an open letter of encouragement to all youth workers. It was about how we can get frustrated and bogged down in the admin side of youth work, when we really just want to be with the young people. But, whether we like it or not, emails need to be sent, risk assessments written and plans made. The writer says that we will often have a 'got to' attitude towards these tasks. 'I've got to write a policy' or 'I've got to photocopy a whole pile of forms and post them out to parents'.

She suggests we recognise the bigger picture. These tasks are part of a God-given ministry that we 'get to' do. God invites us into his mission and we 'get to' work with him. We can change our mindset to a much more positive one, just by changing one letter in one small word. Got or get, there's a whole world of difference between them!

That inspired me so much, about all areas of my life, big and small. What if I took a 'get to' attitude? Would it change my life? I quickly got excited about this as I believed it really would improve my day to day life.

This is not a message just for tired youth workers. This, I believe is for us all. Proverbs 17 vs 22 says 'a cheerful heart is good medicine, but a

crushed spirit dries up the bones.’ I wonder what your balance at the moment is between cheerful heart and dried up bones. I think I’m edging closer to the dried up bones side of things. I feel like the things that need to be done, at work and home have a real ‘got to’ flavour to them.

Can we change our attitude? Absolutely. We choose our attitude, how we see things.

Have a think about these things for a moment, and whether they are a ‘got to’ or ‘get to’ in your books...

- Vacuuming
- Going to the dentist
- Reading the Bible
- Doing some exercise
- Eating healthy food
- Praying
- Going to different meetings at church
- Doing your shopping
- Paying the bills
- Writing something for Flame or Faithtime

We will all have our own answers to those things!

What happens if we approach a task we don’t particularly want to do with a cheerful heart, a ‘get to’ attitude? Take a few moments to consider what might be different for you, and maybe even others.

Here’s my simple and very domestic example. I don’t like cleaning the house. But it needs doing! If I change my ‘I’ve got to do the vacuuming now’ to ‘I get to do the vacuuming now’ where might my mind take me? It’s a novel thought for me, so I’m going to wonder why I might be pleased by this opportunity to get the vacuum out. I’ll end up with a nice clean floor, I’ll do a bit of exercise, I might thank God that I have floors to clean and something to clean them with. Then I might realise we have enough to pay for the electricity that powers the vacuum and thank God for his provision. I might even continue my conversation with God as I vacuum, seeing it as time I can spend with him. All that positivity just from a simple change of attitude. I will be in a better place physically, mentally and spiritually. And just from vacuuming. I’ll be looking out for what else I can do! That is very trivial of course, and yet we remember that Colossians 3 vs 17 says ‘And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,

do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Him.'

Later on we will think about our attitude towards being disciples of Jesus.

Song Praise my soul the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,
Blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish,
Our God lives unchanging on.
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Praise the high Eternal One!

Angels, help us to adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Reading Luke 10, vs 1-12 and 16-17

Talk

When you hear the accounts of Jesus sending out the 72 as we have just read, or him sending out the 12 disciples in Matthew chapter 10, where he adds that they should expect to be flogged and arrested, how does it make you feel? Can you imagine how they felt? Sent out, without Jesus, no money or spare clothes, with a warning of trouble ahead. I'm sure some will have set off excited, grabbing their partner and pulling them along the road ready to get started saying 'Come on, let's go right now. We get to tell new people all about Jesus!' Others may have been a bit reluctant. Would they have dared to go to Jesus to ask if they had to go? They might have just thought to themselves 'I've got to go' and set off slowly, looking back to the safety of Jesus every now and again.

I'm sure we can all relate to those two attitudes and have experienced both.

As we read through the Gospels we come across many things that Jesus called his disciples to do and think. We know that as fellow disciples, for that is what we are as Christians, Jesus' words are equally for us.

Sometimes being a Jesus-follower is exciting and easy. It feels good and is no trouble. At other times it is so much harder. Perhaps what we are called to do is difficult for us or we are just feeling worn out and want to hide away. This is life, and Jesus experienced it too.

But we are not called to a life of duties and obligations. Jesus invites us to a world of opportunities. There are countless ways to serve Him. Some of that is in our own personal relationship with Him. Have I got to pray and read my Bible? No. Does God use prayer and His written Word to speak with us and build a loving relationship? Yes, and in that we get to talk with God! That really is an amazing wonder that we can all too easily take for granted. We are blessed by God when we have a positive attitude.

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, Jesus said 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

By being positive, and sharing the light that Jesus gives us we can bless others. How about asking Cham for some January Light postcards to send to a few people? They have a picture of a lighthouse on the front with the words 'thinking of you.' They have been designed by the Methodist Church to be used to send some cheer to those who need it. I know Cham has lots of postcards and will get some to you if you like. This is such a simple way to stay in touch with those we love, especially at this time. Through them, and all our other good deeds and positive spirit, God will bless others.

Let's go back to the end of our reading, Luke 10, vs 17. All 72 of Jesus' followers returned to him with joy, and no doubt full of tales of all that happened. However they went out, they came back with a 'get to' attitude.

I know that life can be unbearably difficult at times and it's all we can do to get out of bed to face the day. Sometimes we stay in bed. So what do we do then? Be kind to ourselves, and thank God we have a bed to stay in. A 'get to' attitude will always lead us to gratitude. And if we have one thing to be thankful for we will be able to find another and another.

I believe that having a 'get to' attitude could transform our lives for the better, in all areas of our lives. There will be some time to reflect on this a bit later on.

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

We thank and praise you God for sending Jesus, who in turn sends each one of us.

We thank you for your call on our lives, that you invite us be partners with you in spreading the good news of your love for all.

We acknowledge our Christian comfort zone.

We confess we make your love too narrow and we impose false limits on what we will or will not do for you. You sent Jesus to seek and save the lost.

You invite us to journey outside of our comfort zone into unknown territory, to make ourselves vulnerable. This can make us fearful. We have our reservations.

Yet, you didn't promise it would be easy.

Sending lambs among wolves is not a comforting picture. There is risk.

But people need to hear your gospel of love. The harvest of souls is plentiful.

We pray for those who today carry heavy burdens: those who carry the burden of sickness or disease, those who are imprisoned for their beliefs, those who are hemmed in by poverty. We pray for those whose burdens are in their hearts and minds: those who suffer from mental illness, those who are afraid of what the future might bring, those who cannot quite believe that God loves them, even them.

We name those on our hearts today and we pray for them now.

We pray to you about our personal needs and longings.

We thank you that you hear our prayers.

We accept your commission to be your faithful servant people.

We commit ourselves to be workers in your harvest field.

Your love compels us to step out in faith.

You walk with us. You give us Christian sisters and brothers to go with us.

You give us strength and courage.

Help us to speak your prophetic word in a world that sometimes does not want to hear.

Empowered by your Holy Spirit, widen our hearts, grant us the courage we need to journey, to trust, to listen, to speak words of peace and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We ask these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We unite our prayers with the whole church as we say together The Lord's Prayer.

'Our Father...'

Reflection

Take some time to reflect on these questions, with God's help.

- Is there an opportunity to choose a 'get to' attitude towards something you will be doing this week that you aren't looking forward to?

- What are your opportunities to spread some light this week? Not sure? Ask God for some!
- How might God help you to have a 'get to' attitude this week?

Song O Jesus I have promised

O Jesus, I have promised
 To serve Thee to the end;
 Be Thou forever near me,
 My Master and my Friend;
 I shall not fear the battle
 If Thou art by my side,
 Nor wander from the pathway
 If Thou wilt be my Guide.

Oh, let me feel Thee near me;
 The world is ever near;
 I see the sights that dazzle,
 The tempting sounds I hear;
 My foes are ever near me,
 Around me and within;
 But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
 And shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,
 In accents clear and still,
 Above the storms of passion,
 The murmurs of self-will;
 Oh, speak to reassure me,
 To hasten, or control;
 Oh, speak, and make me listen,
 Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
 To all who follow Thee
 That where Thou art in glory
 There shall Thy servant be;
 And Jesus, I have promised
 To serve Thee to the end;
 Oh, give me grace to follow,
 My Master and my Friend.

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,

And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in Thy strength alone.
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then to rest receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

CCLI:8026 John E. Bode

Prayer and blessing

As we end our set time of worship we thank you Lord for being with us and know that you will continue to be with us, and us with you. Inspire and strengthen us this week to be positive and comfort us with your Holy Spirit when it is difficult to do so. Give us opportunities to be light in our world, for your glory. Amen

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself;
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service;
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen