

Coach House Church

BEACONS

SHINE A LIGHT

10TH MARCH 2021

Have you ever seen the film the Lord of the Rings? We are watching it for the first time with the kids. I had forgotten how much I love the films and it is a joy to be able to introduce them to somebody else. My brother and sister and I used to spend hours fighting imaginary orcs with our bows and arrows and now Jamie and I can watch the boys, Noah and Eli, do the same.

In the third film, Return of the King, there is a vital moment where Minastireth, the capital city of Gondor, is about to be under attack and they need help from their friends in Rohan, another city. The problem is that the help is needed urgently and Rohan is far away. So what they have to do is light a beacon, a pile of wood in a tower that is lit to make a light. Once this beacon is lit, someone watching from the next sees it and lights their own beacon. This makes a very fast line of communication between the two cities. These beacons are placed strategically so they can be seen for miles around. They are on the top of mountains or at least high hills, so the next beacon can see them.

This reminded me of a passage in Matthew. Jesus is in the middle of the sermon on the mount and he says in Matthew 5:14-16 "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."

We are called to be light in this world. What does light do? It banishes darkness. There is so much that is dark in our world. So many people that are lost and scrambling for something to hold on to.

It also banishes fear. Darkness is scary. We can't see properly and anything could be lurking in a dark corner. So our light gets rid of fear. We don't need to be afraid anymore because we have the maker of all things on our side.

But Jesus also says something else. He says don't hide your light, don't put it under a bowl where it is useless. He wants us to share this light with others, We need to put our light in a place where people can see it. We need to be brave and confident with our faith. We need to take risks and invite others to share in it. Just like Jamie and I have invited Noah and Eli to share in the joy of watching Lord of the Rings, we should invite others to share in the joy of being in Jesus.

But in doing that we won't be on our own. God doesn't recruit us to the battle field and then abandon us. He stays with us every single step of the way. So we can be brave and have no fear because he is with us. He knows each and every person's heart better than we could and he knows the whole plan. He is the only one that knows where everyone will end up. He wants everyone to turn and choose Him, but He also knows that not everyone will. 2 Peter 3:9 says "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" So He wants each and every person to come to Him. He will support you when you share your faith. This doesn't mean that everyone we talk to will turn to Him. Some people will always choose to reject Jesus. But the Holy Spirit will help you open doors where there are doors to be opened.

And then it will be like the beacons of light in the film. We have each had faith shared with us by someone. We then go on to share our faith with someone else and they share with others and they share with still others and it goes on and on. The chain will continue.

Those beacons in the film were in strategic places and that is what God has done with us. He has placed each of us perfectly to speak to someone. At least one person. So have a think about who you can share the light with. Each of us have people we care about and it is hard when we pray for people and share our faith and seemingly nothing comes of it, but we have to remember that it's in God's hands, not ours.

The other thing about us being light is that we need to be living right. We need to be doing good deeds for people to see. That includes what we've been looking at on Sundays. We need to submit to our authorities - something that is particularly hard at the moment with all the rules - we need to submit to each other and follow the will of God. Then people will see our lives and wonder what's different about us. We shouldn't expect others to live up to these standards or judge other people when they fail, we all do that. But we should do our best to live well ourselves.

And why should we do this? Well it will help those around us for sure. Living the Christian life is best for us and others and the best life we could live. If we act

like this it will be best for those around us as they will get the best of us. If we can share that with others, they will get the best life too. But it's more than that, it's also about their eternity. Even if someone gives their life to Christ on their last day on earth they will be saved and be with Him for all eternity.

Even more than that this is about the glory of God. God deserves all the glory for everything. He created us and sustains us and has saved us from our own sin, from our own mess. He deserves all the praise. So us living good lives and spreading the message of His gospel will increase His glory. That is what we were made to do. To praise Him and teach others to do the same.

So let's be that beacon. Let's be the light that others look to and help them find the same saving grace that we have discovered.



BEKAH BAKER



Coach House Church

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn