

2019-03-03 ... 10am Worship Together ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt

Luke 9: 28 – 36

'Listening to Jesus'

Introduction ...

The phrase that often stands out for me in that reading is what God the Father says to Peter, James and John – what he says to them about Jesus:

“This is my Son, my chosen – listen to him!”

So we're going to start by seeing whether or not we're good listeners in general. We have three people out of sight in the Lady Chapel – Jane, our Reader – and 2 members of the Young People's Confirmation Group, Jack and Summer, who are going to make various noises happen – to be picked up by a microphone – and I want to see if you know what they are (and I need the Choir on the pulpit side not to cheat by looking round!!)

(We all listened to the following and Revd Judy asked for hands up if we knew what the noise was)

1. Saucepan and lid
2. Large pair of scissors cutting paper
3. Crisps being eaten noisily
4. A newspaper being turned over or folded up
5. A piece of tin foil being scrunched up
6. An apple being bitten

We may need to hone our listening skills ... but let's go back to the part of our Gospel reading that I mentioned earlier – words addressed to Peter, James and John – about Jesus:

“This is my Son, my chosen – listen to him!”

If they'd honed their listening skills – they'd be OK ... Jesus was there with them. But what about us ... How do we listen to him now?

Other members of the Young People's Confirmation Group (Nell and Beth) are going to help us to think a bit more about this.

Nell is going to have some ways we hear from people and Beth is going to say how that could be used to think about how we hear from Jesus – how we listen to him.

First Nell on her mobile phone to a friend:

Hi there ... How are you? *(Pause)*

Yes, I'm fine ... wasn't yesterday a great day? *(Pause)*

What? What?

I can't hear you properly ... it's far too noisy here.

I'm going to have to move to somewhere quieter!

Beth's comment:

If we want to be able to hear Jesus we may need to take time to be somewhere quiet, a place where there are no distractions, and read the Bible or look at a picture and then pray.

Nell again – receiving an e mail from a French penpal:

Oh no! I sent my e mail to her in French!

She was meant to reply in English and look ...

all in French with words I've never come across before!

Who's going to help me?

Beth's comment:

Sometimes we have to make an effort to understand. Some parts of the Bible aren't easy when we try and make sense of them. We might need to ask for help before we can hear what Jesus wants to say to us.

Nell again – and back on her mobile phone – ringing another friend:

I've forgotten what time we're meeting up tomorrow.

Hello! Can you hear me?

Oh no – the battery's gone – I forgot to charge it!

Beth's comment:

If we want Jesus to guide us, we need to remember to 'charge up' ... we can do this through reading the Bible, talking with friends about what we believe or coming along to a service like this.

And the final one – Nell – this time with a charged up mobile phone:

Hi there (*long pause*)

Yes, I ... (*long pause*)

No, but ... (*long pause*)

Will you just shut up so that I can say something!!!

Beth's comment:

I want to hear what Jesus is saying – we need to give him space.

Our prayer must include listening as well as speaking.

So as we come to Lent this year – which starts on Wednesday – perhaps instead of thinking what we might 'give up' – we could instead decide to 'take up' – take up **'Listening more to Jesus'** which might mean:

- **Going somewhere quiet to think and pray ...**
- **Asking for help to understand what Jesus might be saying ...**
- **Remembering to 'charge up' by giving time to our relationship with Jesus ...**
- **Remembering not to fill up our time of prayer completely with our words – but also to give God space to talk to us ...**