

A NEW BEGINNING...

Mark 6 v 9-20

The time following Christmas and the start of the New Year is often a time of evaluating the past year and looking forward (or not!) to what we want for the year to come. However, on what are we basing our hopes and dreams?

1). The Past - Hope, Triumph and Tragedy

The disciples had left their former lives and everything they once treasured and held as their security, in order to follow Jesus. When they did, they witnessed and were part of great things - miracles and fantastic teaching. Yet, Jesus died! What went wrong? The disciples are fearful and have lost hope.

2). The Present - "But God"

Jesus' body is not in the tomb, as he has defeated death and has risen. Jesus meets the disciples where they are and instructs them as to the truth of the matter. The disciples encounter Jesus and realise he is victorious.

3). The Future - Hope and Commission

Jesus commissions His disciples and thereby instructs us to have faith that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the good news and see healing and restoration. The church is a place of power and Jesus has promised to accompany us on the mission to see His kingdom come.

So, what will you hope and dream of for this forthcoming year? What do you have faith to see God do in your life, the lives of those around you and in the life of the church?

Questions:

- 1). What did God say to you on Sunday morning and/or upon hearing the above, and what are you going to do as a result?
- 2). In hindsight, what would you have done differently over the last year, and how will you press forward with those areas of your life, with God by your side?
- 3). In what new ways would you want to step out and take a risk for God over the next year (e.g. in praying out, witnessing, or serving)? Be accountable to someone or the group for this.
- 4). Who would you want to get to know Jesus in 2010 and how do you intend to be part of this?
- 5). How do you plan on playing a more active role in the church, or moving forward in your current serving?
- 6). What would you be like if you were more Christ-like? How will you step into this in 2010?
- 7). Take time to pray for each other, for God to heal any past regrets and strive forward with what God has for us over the next year.