



Alstonville Anglicans

Pentecost 4

Sunday 3rd July 2022

Welcome, so good to see you.

Sentence of the Day

The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ask therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Luke 10.2

Collect

God of the covenant,
in our baptism
you called us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom:
give us courage,
as you gave it to the apostles,
that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every
circumstance of life;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of the Land.

Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.

Streaming licence: CCLI 102220

Alstonville Anglicans are committed to ensuring that all people who participate in our worship, programs and ministries have a safe and rewarding experience.

Tel: 66280231 www.anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

Dates 3rd July to 10th July

3 rd July	Sunday
9am	Holy Communion NAIDOC Week commences
4 th July	Monday
9am-12pm	Parish Office
9am – 3pm	Op Shop
10am	Anam Cara (in Professional Room)
10am-3pm	Clergy Rendezvous (in the church)
5 th July	Tuesday
	Parish Office Closed (No office access)
4pm	Singalong group (contact Susan)
6 th July	Wednesday
9am-12pm	Parish Office
9am – 3pm	Anam Cara 9am (contact Charlie) Op Shop
7 th July	Thursday
9am-12pm	Parish Office
9am-3pm	Op Shop
6pm	Anam Cara (contact Doug)
8 th July	Friday
	Parish Office 9am – 12pm
10am	Holy Communion
10 th July	Sunday
9am	Holy Communion
5pm	Messy Life Naidoc film (games 4pm)

Good Governance

Planned Giving
made easy

Application forms
available today



Have you downloaded our App?
'Alstonville Anglicans'

1. Download the app from the app store or google play.
2. Sign-up to create an account.
3. Update your profile.
4. Access the member directory.

Worship & Spirituality

Sunday
10th July 5pm
Games from
4pm

NAIDOC Week
Movie Night

with Alstonville Anglicans
Messy Life Church





Sound Sauna & Healing Experience 6pm Community Meal 7pm Thursday 14th July

All welcome. Cost by donation.
BYO wine/drinks, meal provided
(vegetarian, gluten and dairy free)



Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue Alstonville
anglicans.live

Community Engagement



LET'S MAKE SOME
JOYFUL NOISE!

Sing-a-long Group

Tuesdays 4pm
St Bartholomew's
Church

All Welcome!



Alstonville
Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live



Organ Recital

All Saints Church

Murwillumbah

July 10th 2.30pm

Featuring Robert Eather
organist at Christchurch

Cathedral Grafton

\$18/\$12

www.trybooking.com/BZITL



Sermon Notes on Luke 9. 51-62 for 26th June

Jesus wants followers not admirers

Luke 9. 51-62 describes the freedom necessary to have a **single-minded focus** on the kingdom of God. As someone once said, Jesus wants followers, not admirers. The single-minded focus on the kingdom of God is emphasised at the beginning of the passage: Jesus **sets** his face towards Jerusalem. The single-minded focus ends the passage with the image of one who ploughs straight by looking ahead. While few of us today plough, most of us know that to mow straight lines in the lawn you focus ahead on the line; you don't try to watch Facebook on your phone and mow at the same time.

Luke 9. 51-62 describes the **freedom** necessary to have a single-minded focus on the kingdom of God, so what do we need to be free **for**? We need to be free for the kingdom of God. Jesus preached that the kingdom of God is an inward and an outward reality. He taught that the kingdom of God is within; in other words, God is closer that the breath we breath - God is within as the truest self. The kingdom of God described that we are ultimately one with God; and that if we are one with God we are one with all that God is one with, which is everyone and everything. It is the conviction of divinity and unity at the heart of humanity and spirit at the heart of matter that compelled Jesus to turn his face towards Jerusalem.

Luke 9. 51-62 describes the **freedom** necessary to have a single-minded focus on the kingdom of God, so what do we need to be free **from?**

Being single minded about the kingdom of God requires that we are free from addictions. The text offers some examples of addictions that leave us as admirers of Jesus, rather than followers. For some it is addiction **to cultural norms**. For others, addictions to **family expectations**. There are also addictions to **personal distractions** and **personal drivers** that can lead to destructive behaviours.

Cultural norms: The Samaritans were of the view that they were the true heirs of the Israelite tradition, that Shechem and Mt Gerizim was the place that God caused God's name to dwell. Jesus and his Galilean disciples were headed for Jerusalem. From the perspective of the Samaritans, the Jews (Jesus and his disciples) were heretics on the way to heresy's capital; it is therefore completely logical that there would be a cool reception. Jesus seems accepting of the Samaritans view and is content to go to the next village. It is the addictions to cultural norms in the disciples that Jesus rebukes, not the lack of a warm reception in the Samaritan village. The sons of thunder want to call down hell fire and damnation on the Samaritans. The violence of James and John is indicative of where some unexamined cultural mores can lead us if not critically examined. What cultural norms inhibit us from fully accepting the kingdom of God? What unconscious cultural biases do we have that block the full flourishing of the kingdom of God within us? What cultural convictions can lead to violence? Perhaps our overly materialist Newtonian scientific world view makes it hard for us to accept the reality of God's presence at the heart of matter. Perhaps the secularisation of our society and the saturation of our overstimulated senses make it too noisy for us to surrender to the quiet shyness of the kingdom of God.

Family expectations: One follower is happy to follow Jesus but only once he has fulfilled his duties to his family and their estate: "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Textbooks on the background of early Judaism explain to us that it was the duty of the eldest son to bury both his parents and look after their estate once they had passed away. For the example in Luke 9.59, it could well be that when Jesus says "let the dead bury their own dead" he was not preventing attendance at the funeral of one recently departed. Instead, Jesus was inviting the would-

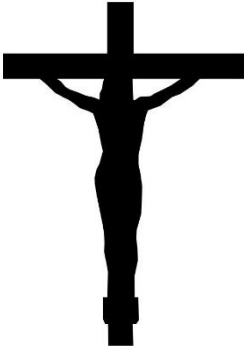
be-follower to live his life now, to participate in the kingdom of God now, and not put off his commitment to God because of being too attached to family expectations.

Personal drivers: In a third example of a would-be-follower of Jesus someone says, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.'⁶² Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.' I wonder what holds you back from yes to the kingdom of God? What distractions and addictions lead to procrastination and the inability to give oneself fully and totally to the kingdom of God? I have found it helpful to reflect on some common drivers that can sometimes influence destructive behaviours. Five common drivers identified by psychologist Kahler in 1975 are: 1. Please Others. 2. Be Strong. 3. Hurry up. 4. Try Hard. 5. Be Perfect.

Why does the individual in the text say, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home'? Is there a need to please those at home, or a need to try hard or are they driven to be perfect? What hidden drivers and addictions take away our freedom to commit to the kingdom of God?

As Jesus did then so he does today. Jesus invites us to the Good Life. He invites us to break free from cultural conditioning, family expectations and personal addiction to life fully and freely in the kingdom of God. There is one caveat: More often than we may realise or like, giving ourselves fully and freely to the kingdom of God, living with compassion and non-violence, can lead to misunderstanding on a good day and hostility on a less than good day. The following true story makes clear the cost of discipleship should we choose to be followers and not merely admirers of Jesus. I heard the story on ABC RN Sunday night programme Radiolab, which played an episode called Kid Logic.

One Christmas when his daughter was four years old she asked about what the Christmas holiday meant. He explained that they were celebrating the birth of Jesus. She wanted to know more about that, so he bought a kid's Bible. she loved the Bible and wanted to know everything about Jesus. So, they read about his teachings, and he explained to her that Jesus main teaching was "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



One day they were driving past a big church, and out front was an enormous crucifix. His daughter asked him, who is that? He had never really told her that part of the story. "Well, that's Jesus, and I forgot to tell you the ending. He ran afoul of the Roman government. his message was so radical to the prevailing authorities that they had to kill him

It was about a month later after that Christmas, mid-January, and her preschool had the day off to celebrate Martin Luther King Day. They were out having lunch and she noticed a poster of Martine Luther King and asked who it was. "Well, that's Martin Luther King, and he's why you're not in school today. This is the day we celebrate his life."

She wanted to know who he was, so her father explained: "well, he was a preacher." she looked up at him and asked, "for Jesus?" He explained to her that Martin Luther King was a preacher for Jesus, but he had a message that you should treat everybody the same, no matter what they look like.

She thought about that for a minute, and she said, "well, that's what Jesus said." Then she looked up at her dad and said, "did they kill him, too?"

Use our welcome booklet for info and contact details for regular activities. We welcome any feedback on the booklet.