

# Two stories

with two lessons

# Our church post-pandemic

Everyone has been affected in some way

Raising big questions

Creating an opportunity to review

Space to hear God in a fresh way

# Thank you

Church life requires effort  
- Many have sacrificed

Several have led in strange circumstances

## You are appreciated!

# The benefits of 'Wilderness'

When life is challenged  
Our priorities become clearer



# Story 1



Fishermen and a carpenter  
Luke 5:1-11

# Why did they do it?



For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 2 Cor. 5:14

# Jesus' building materials



Tired, but obedient  
Self-aware of weakness  
Open to Jesus' call to follow  
Willing to learn a new life  
Willing to leave everything behind

# Story 2



A rich young ruler and a Rabbi  
Luke 18:18-30

# A rich ruler

Believes in God and the age to come

Sincerely seeking Jesus

Religiously and morally faithful



But lacking **one** thing

# One thing

“Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” v22

# He went away 'Very sad'



***perilupos:***

greatly grieved, exceedingly sorrowful,  
greatly distressed

# His hands were too full

Jesus wanted him free of wrong priorities  
So he could join the disciple-makers.

But he preferred his existing priorities:  
**Familiar religion his way,  
and wealth**

Luke, Mark and Matthew  
all compare the disciples  
with **this** man

<sup>24</sup> Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is  
for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ...

<sup>28</sup> Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to  
follow you!”

# Jesus makes promises

<sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”



# Lessons for us

Jesus calls disciples to leave things behind  
and let things go

**If** such things are more important  
than disciple making.

Disciples give up everything for Jesus.

Jesus promises rewards to the obedient

Jesus let's people walk away  
If they can't do this.

# Dismantled

God will sometimes 'prune' or take apart elements of life that need removing or changing.



Some change is involuntary.  
Some change is chosen.

If we believe that God is in these changes  
- we have to trust the process.

# Inherited riches

The story of our church:  
How we've done things for decades  
The wealth of relationships

A rediscovery  
of our inherited name

**“St John the Evangelist”**  
(Not just “St. John’s”)

Some have left us

Which is sad

But we give all our blessing  
and prayers

# Treasure in jars of clay

Several people are showing courage and willing  
To respond to Jesus' call to be a disciple-maker;  
(Learning Community breakthrough!)

Prioritising our original named purpose

Others recognise the need to reach out,  
But haven't yet made changes to do this  
(I'm here to talk!)



**Jesus builds his kingdom  
with what?**

**With those who are  
willing to let go of everything  
and follow where he leads**

# Why do we do it?



For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 2 Cor. 5:14