

NOTES FOR SPEAKING

Meeting: Freshwaters Christian Fellowship

Date & Time: 19/07/09 10.30am

Title: The lifeboat for saving souls

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Introduction

This morning we are going to watch a short DVD clip. Think about what the different characters and conversations represent.

Show Clip

This clip is seeking to represent the reality of our world at the moment – that all around us people are perishing – dying without saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and being lost forever. **Meanwhile those who have the ability to help them – to throw the lifeline of the gospel are more concerned with their own comfort and security than with reaching others.** A very small proportion of the church are active in helping to save others. We talk about it and plan for it – but are we doing it?

Our motivation

The first thing we need is a right motivation. **John 3:16** says **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."**

God's motivation for sending Jesus was love – His desire was and still is that people would not perish but have eternal life.

Remember the attitude of the officer in the banqueting hall – in effect what he was saying is that all the good people are already safe on board – and that only the bad people are at risk of perishing – so why should we risk our lives for them.

He was completely wrong – he was wrong in fact - **Rom 3:23** says that **'all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God'** – in other words we have all done bad things, the only difference between those inside and those outside the kingdom of God is that those inside have been thrown a lifeline which they have taken hold of and have been pulled to safety – those outside have either rejected the lifeline – or far more likely never been thrown one!

The officer was also wrong in attitude – his attitude was one of superiority and arrogance – our attitude needs to be one of humility and love – let's remind ourselves from **Phil 2:3-11**.

If we love God we will be motivated to love others – if we love others will we let them perish?

Will we go?

Would you call yourself a disciple or follower of Jesus? – Ok, then listen to Jesus words to you from **Matt 28:18-20**.

Jesus said Go – **go where?** – to the people of all nations, who does that include, your husband or wife, your brother or sister mum or dad, your neighbour or friend, your work colleague, your car mechanic or shop assistant, your enemy, a complete stranger to you – where you are here or in any nation on earth – we are called to go.

Whether we are called to go to those around us here in Harlow or to go to China or Africa or any other nation on earth is to do with our personal calling – but being called to go is a general calling – its for all of us, we don't need a specific revelation – God's word is the ultimate revelation & He says go.

Remembering the conversation of the two men on the boat – they knew the theory, they were proud of their knowledge, but they preferred the comfort and safety of talking about saving others rather than the risk and discomfort of doing it.

It is no use talking about others being saved, discussing the best techniques, understanding the power of the gospel – learning to communicate it with proficiency – unless we are willing to go and tell someone.

What are we to do when we go – to make disciples of all nations, baptising them – **in other words we need to go to people and help them to become followers of Jesus themselves.** We do that by sharing with them the good news of who Jesus is, of what He has done for them and how they can receive the gift of eternal life for themselves.

Rom 10:5-15

Like the Steward on the boat we are in the valley of decision – the church is not and never has been a pleasure boat – it was designed and commissioned by Jesus to be a lifeboat for saving souls. People are perishing all around us – will we man the lifeboats and throw out to people the lifeline of the gospel – will we even risk our own life to help reach others – or will we stay in the safety and security of the ship closing the blinds of our hearts to the need of others?

The DVD we have seen is one of a series from a resources called 'Full Flame' from Reinhard Bonnke's organisation 'Christ for all nations'. During the autumn we will be following this course in Small Groups to help encourage and equip us all to respond to Jesus command to go.

We have decided to run this in Small Groups because we wanted as many as many people as possible to go through the course – this is for everyone not just the eager few. We know it is a large investment in time within the small groups – but we believe this is so important it is worth the investment. It will be running in all small groups – so if for some reason you miss your groups meeting you can go to one of the other's. You will also have a workbook which you can use to reinforce the things being taught. The winning way's team will be leading the discussions after each DVD.

This is a tremendous opportunity for us all to be equipped – but remember to be trained to go is no good unless we actually do GO!