

CELL NOTES 8/2/10

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever had to be the bearer of good news or bad news to somebody else? What happened?

THEME

We need each other

Reading; Phil 2 : 19 - 30

SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) Paul expresses appreciation for the Philippians, and is please to send two good visitors.
- 2) Paul demonstrates his care by his heartfelt enquiry about them.
- 3) It affirms and encourages us all to know others care, and Epahroditus' return is concrete demonstration of that.
- 4) We need each other via speech, demonstration of love and forgiveness.
- 5) Jesus modelled this – He was never discouraging, rude or belittling. He sometimes had hard messages, but always aiming to teach and encourage – he even got through to civil servants!
- 6) He frequently modelled love, and taught His followers to live that way, as did Paul.
- 7) Jesus also modelled forgiveness in life, and then supremely from the cross.
- 8) Illustration of song about being on hold from a call centre, with the chorus “If everybody did it like Jesus, it would give the world a new beginning.”
- 9) The Philippians are urged to let Epahroditus know they are pleased to see him – so must we – make good coffee etc!
- 10) Why do we need each other?
 - We are encouraged and lifted.
 - When we behave that way, it spreads and makes us more open to God.
 - Others see how we behave – and it impacts our witness.
- 11) Growing together strengthens our faith , So “Knowing what you stand for will limit what you fall for.”
- 12) Steve shared his sense of personal challenge in preparing the message, and closed with 2 further one-liners
 - “If we want to mend world relations surely I can show a little patience.”
 - “If you want to see something happen, be the change you want to see.”

QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION

- 1) Read the passage. What did God say to you on Sunday, or through the passage as you read it now?
- 2) Who in your life have helped shape your self-image by their praise, or lack of it?
- 3) How easily do you praise others?
- 4) How can the group (separately or together) be an encouragement to others in the church, or in another church?