

Be yoked to Christ - Sermon Notes – Kingsway Christian Fellowship (January 2019)

1.0 Introduction

In 2018 the churches across Wolverhampton combined to deliver an outreach at the city's central park which was entitled, **ABLAZE**

Carlos Anacondia and his team from Argentina came.

- We had great weather
- Great outdoor celebrations
- Churches came together united
- And there were salvations/healings/deliverance and recommitments

The message from **ABLAZE** was - **Hope is here!**

You and I are carriers of HOPE

The Bible tells us that we are *“saved in hope”* (Rom 8 v 24) and that God is the *“God of all hope”* (Rom 15 v 13)

So think about becoming **carriers of HOPE** this year.

In Genesis Chapter 12 v 1 -3, God tells Abraham that He is going to bless make him but moreso that he (Abraham) would become a blessing to others.

“The biblical witness to the nature of God is that He is unchanging from one generation to the next. Therefore, what He said to His servants under similar circumstances He is saying to His people today” – (Quote from Clifford Hill)

Because God does not change, when we see this principle of blessing others around us, is should alter our method of approach about the way we do life.

We're here to bring **HOPE** and to be a **BLESSING**- 1Cor 10:24 says, *“Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbour”*.

When we forget this, the church withers!

Jesus job is not to tell the gospel – He is the gospel

Our responsibility is for the world to hear God's word

Don't ever underestimate the power of the gospel

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, it is the power of God unto salvation” or as my learned friend once said, you can express this by saying, *“I am proud of the gospel...”*

You see, it's not so much that God has a mission for His church – He has a church for His mission!

All the time – never ceasing – no breaks – and no holidays.

To summarize, you and I are

- Carriers of HOPE
- Carriers of BLESSING
- Carriers of the GOSPEL which is the power of God unto salvation.

I went to preach at a small church with a message of **HOPE** and outside they had a banner – *“Hope is here”*

The message was well received and the next time I went, the banner read, *“Slimming World is here”* - to this day, I am not too sure if they put that up because they knew I was coming!

I that particular series of talks to that church I was encouraging them to see that they were to be a **HOPE** – they were to **HELP** others as God was a very present help in times of trouble – and that they were to be **ASSURED** of His presence with them. (My presence shall go with you and I will give you rest”)

This small church is doing an amazing work with disenfranchised men who have lost access to their children.

It is a very simple message God has left His church to undertake and it has a guaranteed profound reach for those who will commit to its call.

Fourteen men came to the Fathers Group – 8 came to the Alpha course – and now 4 are in the church pursuing a life with Christ.

So you can think of many ways both personally and as a church to stay active in spreading this word of **HOPE**.

I want to challenge you this year to excel in spreading the Gospel and for you to be amazed at the fruit which you will see before you very eyes.

2.0 What does hinder you?

Let's read Matthew 11 v 25 - 30

"At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

I think this story has a lot to say about our **SERVICE**. All too often the emphasis is placed on **FUNCTION** but you can't have application without first willingly submitting. *They are co-joined.*

You and I cannot operate as lone rangers – rebels – isolationists.

In order to function, you have to be joined to Christ!

Look at the imagery here which is a perfect picture of **service**

- The yoke is **EASY** – it fits without rubbing but you know it's there
- The burden is **LIGHT** – this is talking about your great responsibility but you're assured that it will not crush you. – 1 John 5 v 3 *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."*
- You cannot walk ahead or lag behind because it will rub and hinder you.
- This is a wonderful picture of **DISCIPLESHIP**

How wonderful that Christ should share this ministry with us His church

But will you and I take this responsibility up?

3.0 Break up the fallow ground

The final thought I want to bring you is found in **Hosea Chapter 10 v 11 – 12**

This passage also talks about a yoke and the imagery is equally as powerful as the picture in Matthew's gospel.

A well-known story, perhaps you know the one phrase, *"break up the fallow ground"*

But there is more in this story for us. It's referring to Israel but again, we can safely import the Biblical dynamic and teachings for our own lives.

The picture starts with a young cow feeding from the threshed wheat found at its feet.

But the scene changes – the heifer grows up to be a beast of burden

It has to plough and pull in order to break up

Sow with a view to **righteousness**

As a result, reap **kindness**

Break up your **fallow land** – idle; unproductive; unfruitful; barren

Does it say here that the pastors at Kingsway will break up your fallow ground?

No, you and you alone have to break up your fallow ground

We have to start by being honest with God and tell Him there are parts in our lives that nourish no one.

You and I are called to bear much fruit

When we break up our fallow ground, the process will undoubtedly be fraught and painful but it will be profitable if we are determined to press on and change.

4.0 Conclusion

And the final promise in verse 12 is a wonderful promise of reward for our willingness – *“until He comes to rain righteousness on you”*

People of God, it's time to pick up your plough and be serious with God!

C S Lewis – “You can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending”

.....
Corrie Ten-Boon – “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”