**The Sending 14 July 2019**

On the Saturday evening Luis Els spoke and I have no idea what he spoke on because I knew God was giving me something to tell you this morning so I went back to our apartment and wrote it out as God showed me.

and it’s actually caused a significant change in my thinking,

And as I prepared this last night, I was thrilled because through this revelation, God has given me a clear strategy for the next stage of the church life here.

I once again have a clear vision of how we move forward.

So this is it…..

The Sending = all about finding your calling/ your destiny and being sent out into it

1. **It’s really not hard**

I think I have made a mistake in the past using the example of Steve and Rose being Mayor because although they are clear examples of God putting his son or daughter into a position of influence, we can easily think we have to be called to a very public position.

You are called to be Gods representative on the earth wherever you are – whether that is in an office or garage or supermarket with 4 or 5 colleagues, in a school with your friends and the teachers, in your street, in your family, in the hospital or in the community caring for the sick and vulnerable.

Tony says we should pray

 “thank you God that you love the elderly & infirm folk in Milford so much that you gave them me” (jo)

“thank you God that you love the staff at Lidl so much that you gave them me” (brioney)

“thank you God that you love my brothers and sister so much that you gave them me” (Helen)

God must really love the council because he gave them Sarah, Clare, Pete and Steve!

So if you’re filled with the Holy Spirit, just as God gave me a picture for Mark when I was walking around a shopping mall, ask him to give you something that will speak hope and life into someone you are spending time with.

Back to what God said to me on the Sat night – it was from Joshua would you believe

Josh 4 – Joshua is about to lead the people of Israel into the promised land

Go back to end of chapter 3:14 – 17

Read v 17 again

1. **The whole nation, all of Gods people crossed into the promised land - It is for everyone!**

All of God’s people crossed into the promised land.

On the Sunday before we went to the Sending, God said (through two separate words) that the 3 of us went representing each generation – young, middle and older.

So if you are younger than Becki - coming into your destiny / into all that God has for you….. is for you

If you are like me, older than Becki but younger than Enfys - coming into your destiny / into all that God has for you….. is for you

& if you are older than Enfys - coming into your destiny / into all that God has for you….. is for you

* It’s not just for the young,
* It’s not just for the well-known,
* It’s not just for those skilled in a particular arena.

Everyone crossed into the promised land to enjoy the fullness of what God had for them

The only thing that will disqualify you = disobedience.

Josh 5:6 explains that the previous generation didn’t enter because they were disobedient

* but if you walking in obedience with God…. your age, ability, social standing, how much money you’ve got doesn’t matter – God wants all his people to come into everything he has for them
* and that means you.

**But when the people got into the promised land, you could divide them into three groups**

* **settlers, fighters and occupiers.**
1. **Settlers - settling is ok**

You won’t have heard me say this at Nantucket before but God has shown me that settling is ok if you are a settler….. so if it’s ok with the Father, it’s ok with me.

Joshua 4:19 & 5:10-12

When Gods people entered the promised land….they set up camp.

They settled!

- they planted crops, they built their homes and raised their families.

So if you know God has called you to be part of the church here and you are busy working, raising a family and all you can manage on top of that is getting to house church or having someone over once a month and when I talk about changing the world, inside you say to yourself “that’s not for me”……then that is now officially ok.

* You are still called to be salt and light in your work place
* You are still called to raise your children to know God
* You are still called to love your neighbour, pray for the sick
* You are still called to serve

And you are the core of the community of the kingdom here at Nantucket – so you need to fulfil that role and actively participate in the community so that those coming to look at what Gods people look like….see it.

When people come to see, I don’t want them to see a building, however nice it may be. I want them to experience the community of the kingdom.

i.e. what is it like to be with the people of God - very different people with very different outlooks, different political opinions, different tastes and ways of doing things …..

belonging together, looking after one another, enjoying tremendous friendships, supporting each other through difficult things of life.

We can all belong to the people of God in such a way that others want to get on the inside & we can all serve.

1. **Fighters - Some are called to fight**

So some are called to settle. If we look at Joshua 4:12-13…..

Some of us are called to fight

i.e. to advance the kingdom by defeating the enemy in certain arenas that affect the people of Milford and bring that arena back under the Lordship of Christ.

Read Joshua 4:12 – 13

Bible scholars estimate that 600,000 men crossed over into the promised land,

40,000 of those crossed prepared for battle – that’s about 6%

they’re the ones called to fight and take the land.

1. **Occupiers - some are called to occupy the new land once the fight’s been won**

So when we achieve a breakthrough in a sphere of society, an opening for the things of God to influence how something is done….

We need people to come behind those that have who have gained the opening and occupy the space that has been made available.

Q = Does that make sense?

So there is a place for everyone and **God makes the way** for you to come into the destiny that He has for you

* Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you

**Conclusion**

Sometime over the summer, I think it’ll be time to have another meeting like we did last year, when I will try and convey where I see the church going.

To conclude today – whether God has made you a settler, a fighter or an occupier or combination ……

don’t wish you were someone else – don’t be jealous, coz you won’t be happy in someone else’s shoes. If you would be, God would have made you them!

Find out who you are in God – your identity

Know whose you are – a child of your heavenly Father

And know that you’re called to walk here at Nantucket, you are a part of this community of the Kingdom and enjoy coming into your promised land.

Amen