



Be Brave & Proclaim The Lord's Name

Many years ago in my younger years, before I'd met the current Mrs Doust, I dated a an atheist woman. Early into the relationship she asked me if I was into all the 'Church stuff' and did I go to church every Sunday. So, I said no. I'm not sure why (am sure there will be a few reasons that most people can think of!) Half way through my 25 mile trip home that evening I suddenly got a feeling of guilt. So, I turned the car around, drove back and knocked on her door. She was a little surprised to see me and just assumed I had forgotten something. I just stood on the doorstep and said, "You know when you asked me if I did all that 'Church stuff' and I sad no, well, I should have said yes. I'm Catholic. And I do go to Church on a Sunday." Felt a lot better driving home. No guilt. Never heard from her again. Was it the Catholic bit? Maybe it was the 'telling the truth' bit! Maybe I'd just bored her to death within those few weeks!

In real life, it is not always easy to be brave and declare our faith. There are times when we find it so much easier to say nothing. But the Scripture this week teaches us it is not really enough to tell others about our faith when we are asked. It is something we should proclaim ... we initiate the declaration. We shouldn't wait for the right moment to do this as every moment is the right moment. It just takes courage.

[Mr Doust]

Scripture:

Then they came to the town of Jericho. As Jesus was leaving there with his followers and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. He heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by. The blind man cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, please help me!"

Many people scolded the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he shouted more and more, "Son of David, please help me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Tell the man to come here."

So they called the blind man. They said, "Cheer up! Get to your feet. Jesus is calling you." The blind man stood up quickly. He left his coat there and went to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man answered, "Teacher, I want to see again."

Jesus said, "Go. You are healed because you believed." At once the man was able to see again, and he followed Jesus on the road.

Prayer:

Lord, our God, we are in the shadow of your wings. Protect us and bear us up. You will care for us as if we were little children, even to our old age. When you are our strength, we are strong; but when we are our own strength, we are weak. We now return to you, O Lord, that we may never turn away again.

Amen

