

2 Cor. 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-end. *The ministry of healing & preaching (1): demonstrating the kingdom*

<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<p>What is your earliest memory of someone preaching in church? Has it affected the way you view preaching now?</p>
<p><b>Worship ideas</b></p>	<p><i>Suggested songs: (Songs of Fellowship) 10 All heaven declares; 716 Filled with compassion; 625 You are my hiding place; 935 My Jesus my saviour (NB files with c.30 more recent songs are available to borrow from the office)</i></p>
<p><b>Word (refs.)</b></p>	<p><i>You may find like to listen to Paul Davies' sermon from this Sunday – find it on the St B website (<a href="http://www.stbchurch.org.uk">www.stbchurch.org.uk</a> - downloads section - sermon from 5:30 to 35:30).</i></p>
<p><b><u>Read</u></b> Mark 3:20-end</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our focus this week is on the <u>ministry of preaching</u>. How was Jesus' teaching here both confirmed and validated by his ministry of healing and driving out demons?</li> <li>• Why do you think the teachers of the law thought Jesus was possessed?</li> <li>• Jesus uses parables to confront the teachers. Is this a good way to 'preach' today? Why?/ why not?</li> <li>• V.28 – what sins does Jesus say can be forgiven? Which sin can never be forgiven?</li> <li>• What is 'blasphemy against the Holy Spirit'? How is it connected with vv.22 and 30? If someone is concerned they have committed 'the unforgiveable sin', does this concern show that in fact they cannot be guilty of such a sin?</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Read</u></b> 2 Cor. 4:1—5:1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How importance do you think preaching is today? 2 Cor. 4 links preaching ('setting forth the truth plainly', v.2) with moving from darkness to light (v.6). Is this a key part of preaching today? Should it be?</li> <li>• From vv.13-18, what importance does Paul put on the place of 'faith' in proclaiming the word? How is this important today?</li> <li>• What is the overall purpose of him speaking the word (v.15)?</li> <li>• In Eph. 4:11-13, St. Paul refers to the 4-fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor-teachers. Where does preaching fit in here? Is it the same as prophecy? The same as teaching? A mix of the two? Or something different?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Witness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pray</b> as the Lord leads for the following: -</li> <li>• for your mission link person(s) or project</li> <li>• for those charged with the responsibility of preaching</li> <li>• for opportunities to reach out to family/ friends/ neighbours in weeks (eg St Barnabas Day, Father's Day barbecue on Sun <b>21 Jun</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Plan</b></li> <li>• An activity during June or July to which you can invite friends and family, etc. who are not yet Christians (eg summer barbecue, walk, garden party, etc.)</li> </ul>