

EHS 7 Grow in to an emotionally mature adult

27/6/21

PRAY

We are still in our series called emotionally healthy Spirituality
Which is about both

Healthy Spirituality = our vertical relationship with God

+ Emotionally Healthy relationships

= our horizontal relationships with one another

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And my first point is

Jesus 12 disciples were ordinary people like us

Jesus formed a small group with 12 very diverse people

1 Peter = the point leader – who spoke up too quickly and too much

2 Andrew = was a quiet and behind the scenes introvert

3,4 James and John = who were called “the sons of thunder”

because they were aggressive, hotheaded, ambitious and intolerant

5 Philip = was sceptical and negative

– we cant do that summed up his faith

6 Nathanael Bartholomew = was prejudiced and opinionated

7 Matthew the tax collector = the most hated person in Capernaum

8 Thomas = depressive and pessimistic

9,10 James son of Alpheus and Judas son of James

= who were nobodies + say nothing in any of the gospels

11 Simon the Zealot = a freedom fighter and terrorist

12 Judas the treasurer = a loner and a thief who betrayed Jesus

They were not exactly emotionally healthy

they were ordinary people like us

But they did have 3 things going for them

They were **Flexible, Available and Teachable**

We may have similar challenges

But **if we are flexible available and teachable**

Then Jesus can use us as powerfully as the 12

1 Jesus 12 disciples were ordinary people like us

Now please turn with me to **Mark 6.30 on page 1009**
To the feeding of the 5000

The context is

The 12 disciples have just been on mission
Preaching repentance and casting out demons and Healing the sick
And they are tired
And Jesus suggests they have a break

BUT when they get to their solitary beach
They find a crowd there waiting for Jesus

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2 The 12 disciples response was anxious and immature

So what did the 12 disciples say?

Well in verses 35,36

Jesus disciples came to him.

'This is a remote place,' they said, 'and it's already very late.

³⁶ Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.'

2 The 12 disciples response was anxious and immature

Almost let's run and hide

I think if I had been Jesus

I would have worried about the quality of my leadership team

How could Jesus entrust the salvation of the world to these 12?

3 Jesus response was confident and faith filled

Jesus response begins in **verse 34**

³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Jesus first response was

Compassion... because they were like sheep without a shepherd

These people were deeply attracted to Jesus
Perhaps they knew Jesus had something they needed
and so Jesus tried to meet their needs - he taught them

Jesus second response is in **verse 37**

Where he says to the 12 **'You give them something to eat.'**

And then he guides the 12 through a process

What resources do we have?

OK Lets get organised - sit them all down

And taking the resources available **Jesus prays**

And somehow in **verse 42 They all ate and were satisfied**

3 Jesus response was confident and faith filled

And surely by involving the 12 in feeding the 5000

He was trying to teach the 12

to have similar faith filled responses

4 Let's become more like Jesus

1 Let's be filled with compassion

Let's allow ourselves to be moved by the needs of the world
Let's allow our feelings of love to motivate us in to action

2 Let's notice the needs around us

The 12 had correctly noticed one of the needs of the crowd
So **what are the needs of the people of Hungerford?**

What do the children need?

What do the young families need?

Very often people's needs overwhelm them

And they cannot see the wood for the trees

Perhaps by standing back we can see their needs better than they can!

3 Let's meet the needs of the people of Hungerford using the resources God has given us

Like the 12 we don't have loads of money

But **if we are Flexible Available and Teachable**

Then God can use us like he used the 12

To turn the world the right way up again

4 Let's become more like Jesus

and I want to include the good news

5 The 12 did learn to respond with faith

A few weeks ago Robin spoke about **Acts 10, 11**

The story of Cornelius the first Gentile Christian

You may remember

1

Cornelius saw an angel who said send for Simon who is called Peter
and so Cornelius sent for Peter

2

Peter had a vision of a sheet full of unclean food
and heard God say **Get up Kill and Eat**
and Peter learnt that **He should not call anyone unclean**

3

And **here is a faith filled response**

Peter listened to the men sent by Cornelius
even though they were gentiles

Peter went with the gentiles + went into Cornelius's house

And preached the good news about Jesus

4

The Holy Spirit came on the Gentiles

5

Here is another faith filled response

Peter Co-Operated with God + baptised the first Gentiles

By **Acts 10**

Peter had learnt to listen to God

to listen to the needs of those around him

and

to Co-Operate with God

– even when it was way outside his comfort zone

5 The 12 did learn to respond with faith

and I think

6 We are learning to respond with faith

So let me remind you about

How we started planting trees

We have not planted any trees

In any of the churches I have led previously

Mike Morecroft gave a talk on a Wednesday evening in church

And 80 people showed up to listen

And during the questions it became clear that

Both Mike thought planting trees was one way to mitigate climate change

And that the crowd were keen on tree planting too

So we partnered the primary school

who had already ordered their trees

And learnt that the woodland trust would supply trees for free

And so far we have planted 1680 trees

And we have plans to plant another 1260 in November

So by the end of the year we will have planted 2740 trees

And Bishop Olivia was boasting about us at Diocesan synod 8 days ago

We noticed a need

We discovered who could supply trees

And we have partnered with everyone

to meet the need with our limited resources

6 We are learning to respond with faith

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So

Let's notice the needs around us

Let's respond like Jesus with faith filled confidence

Let's meet the needs of the people of Hungerford

Using the resources God has given us

PRAY