



## Pentecost Sermon 23.5.2010

- We are rightly sceptical about wonder-products which will supposedly cure baldness, build physique or lose weight overnight.
- But TRANSFORMATION can (and must) happen:
  - Many Bible examples e.g. Moses, Gideon, David
  - Biggest transformation ever, BC to AD, God as human
  - Or...
  - PENTECOST, disciples before and after.
- Ppt. Disciples:
  - Timid                    v                    CONFIDENCE in God's power etc
    - His purpose for individuals and church
  - Confused about the gospel    CLEAR in telling the good news
    - Sermons, courses, bible study to help you
  - Self centred            v                    COMPASSION concerned for others
    - Sant'Egidio meeting on Friday gives us a chance to help others
- Note: above are sliding scales
  - ◆ Illustration: Martin's conversion
  - ◆ Big hairy biker, burnt school down twice, drink, drugs, downhill slope
  - ◆ Filled with HS
  - ◆ Became CONFIDENT God would turn life around
  - ◆ Came regularly to church, learning about god. Dyslexic – we recorded CDs for him. Discovered vocation, I helped him. Lead home group (CLARITY in telling good news) (Billie in his home group)
  - ◆ Went on to study with Church Army
  - ◆ Still a big hairy biker but Christian, works for CA, outreach, sharing God's love with COMPASSION.
- Why the difference? Holy Spirit
- For us, at St G:
  - As leader, where church is on each of sliding scales
  - As individuals: where are each of you on scales?
  - NB Different for each person – position and involvement
- My job: help each person/all of us together move left to right
- Survey: some think I do it well, some think not so well
- BUT please don't doubt my motive or resolve, main thing I am concerned about



- Why I:
  - Pray for the church every day
  - Offer SHAPE interviews
  - Run ROOTS (like Alpha) and ROUTES (discipleship) courses
  - Ran the weekend away
  - Pray and study before writing sermons or bible studies
  
- Use the handout to think and pray about where YOU are on the faith scale (timid to confident), the hope scale (confused to clear) and the love scale ( self-centred to compassionate)
- Only HS can transform us
- HS won't force us
- We have to be OPEN to being transformed – let The Helper help us!
- How?
- Read and understand Bible, pray and WAIT on God...
- We know all this, so where is fruit of HS?
- Ppt. Gal 5: 22 – 23
- I see these fruits in love and fellowship we share, social activities, hospitality, support we give each other
- So important/needed when so many of congregation don't have family here in Spain; we are a family
- Sometimes these fruits are lacking – let's be honest!
- Finally:
- God wants your HEARTS as well as minds
- Work with me, as we open ourselves to transformation by HS
- Watch god transform you, us and BCN!
  - In the LOVE of Christ
  - The POWER of the HS
  - To the GLORY of God the Father.

Amen