

Come and See: the Beatitudes

Transcript, episode five: the promise

<https://youtu.be/FExtwyZpRYs>



My name is Adrian and I'm a chaplain at two senior schools in Berkshire. And it's my utter privilege to be able to share with you today in the Come and See series of films. I'm talking about the impact of the Holy Spirit.

Today, I'm going to be using my own transformational story, as a very personal example of how God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit can be life changing. As a teenager, my attitude, my behavior was off the scale. And frankly, it was awful.

Much of this was due to the impact of losing my sister, and two young cousins. I remember at the time questioning; "how can there be a god? How could he allow three innocent young people to die, and yet there seems to be others doing and living awful lives, apparently getting away with it?".

Now my situation may seem extreme, but I'd like you to ask yourself and each other the following question, "Who amongst you has ever felt like me and asked, 'where's God?' in my situation?"

My previous job was working in high-end security, which was providing security for the rich and the famous, and one of my greatest friends was sadly killed in Iraq by a suicide bomber. As I attended his funeral in Enfield, in a little church, there before me, was the same permutation: his wife and two daughters. Exactly the same as it would have been for me.

It was at that point, in that church, that I challenge God; that if he was real, he needed to prove it. It's time to pause this video, and ask yourself this question: "What would be your burning question that you would ask God?"

Back again. Hope you discovered that burning question. It's good to have questions, it's good to have questions. I'll carry on with my story.

From that funeral, things started to change. My wife and daughters had been attending a church run from the school hall. After badgering me (a lot) - both my daughters used to go "Dad, please come to church" - in the end I gave in, I went to prove that God didn't exist, it was futile, and then they would leave me alone. On arrival, it was kind of like a cafe style church, and the sung worship began. To my horror, to my horror, these people started putting their hands in the air and singing, I thought "Oh, my word, what have I let myself in for?".

But then what began to happen was incredible. I had an experience I've never had before. What it felt like was someone wrapping a blanket of love all the way around me. And I felt a warmth and a love, as I said, never experienced before. It was profound, and it stirred my heart.

At that time, I didn't tell anyone straight away. I returned the next week and the following weeks after, and things changed as God (as I asked him), proved himself to me, revealed himself to me. I kind of think the best example I can give was my heart over the years, all the pain and the sorrow and trauma I'd been through had hardened, and it was actually spiritually dead. And Jesus rocked up when I called out, and he started doing almost spiritual CPR on my heart.

So you know, like CPR is when if someone has died or in an accident, and you'll see a paramedic or a doctor trying to massage heart back to life. And that's what Jesus did to me. He worked on my heart, and there was a lot of stuff in the way of that. And while he was working on my heart, he gave me his eyes, and I began to see the world in a different way.

It's time for you guys to chat again. About the following question: "Is there something that you would like Jesus to heal or change in your life? I'll leave that one with you to think about."

Okay, so we're back in the room. I hope that a good old chat about that. And chatted about the things that you would like Jesus to heal or change.

Now you may be asking, 'What's he done for Adrian, what's he done for Adrian?' I'll tell you what he's done for me. He's given me a belief in Him, a belief in God, that He loves me, and he has a plan for me, and the desire and the passion to support others.

This resulted in me feeling the need to leave my security career, and work with young people in education and demonstrating as best I could the actions of Jesus. I was the Beatitudes in action. And then I actually lived it out in everything I did. Let me explain. In the Beatitudes, it says, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. Now I, as we know, was poor in spirit, and God has been so gracious to me.

Next in the Beatitudes, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted'. I was consumed in my mourning, I was unable to move on. And knowing Jesus has healed my heart and allowed me to flourish and live a fruitful life. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the Earth.

Finding and knowing God has given me the eyes and heart of Jesus, spotting those who appear weak, struggling, and then offering Jesus' love to them. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God'. As I explained, Jesus did that work on my heart. And from this I've seen God working.

Lastly, from me, Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. I am constantly seeking to bring peace in all circumstances. I see through the life of Jesus, that seeking peace is the best way to live.

Now for all of us here, we all live in a very dark and sometimes scary, sad world. Jesus came as the light of the world and for me, and I hope for you, His light brings comfort, safety and drives out the darkness.

Perhaps through this film, or the other films you've watched, God has been speaking to you. And through the questions asked, he's provoked you. As I finish this film, I just want to say thank you for listening.

Thank you for considering and thank you for asking questions. And I hope they've helped you, provoked you, and given you some answers.