

**Title: Help others Follow**

**Passage: Mark 3:3:-20**

**Date: 5 Feb 2023**

**Speaker: Jason Hoet**

**Series: &help others**

Max Interview

[slide]

**Read Mark 3:3:-20**

**As we start the year focus our church on two areas for 2023.** [slide]

- helping others follow,
- helping others belong

Max is a wonderful example what we hope will happen in our church what is planted will grow and bear fruit

[slide]

**Jesus in this familiar parable reminds us how vital it is our life in Jesus grows and bear fruit**

Who's heard multiple sermons on this passage in mark 4?

the seed fails in the first two cases.

the thorny soil

- the plant grows but is choked and critically is unfruitful

the good soil

- is fruitful 30, 60, 100 times what sown
- this is more than simply our life is growing in the likeness of Jesus
- it is fruitfulness - it is reproducing more of the life of Jesus in others.

Sadly, church life can become one where we primarily exist to help people get through what chokes us

This is vital

And why one way people have described the church as a hospital.

But hopefully the goal is not to keep people in hospital but to see them released out into a rich life of contribution and fruitfulness.

hopefully we can also think of Church as a university or a college that trains and equips the administrator or the orderly doctor or nurses to run the hospital.

**When we take seriously that our life in Jesus isn't just good for us, but helps others follow, Then we find our own faith comes alive**

- Kids ministry / Growth Group leading

It is a great reminder that when something becomes relevant, it becomes of important.

like the student who pays attention when the teacher, says "You're going to need this", it is in the exam. How keenly the budding rock climber watches the safety routine, because they know they are next.

[slide]

**"You're going to need this" is a key to growing faith.**

Who's heard multiple sermons on this passage in mark 4?

[someone noted to me the challenge of preaching to people who have been in church all their life – what can I say that is new to them]

A Turner quote [slide]

"If this sermon bores you, if you can predict what I'm going to say next, if you're all but mouthing the words along with me, then why aren't you preaching it to others? if it's also obvious that you're rolling eyes, why aren't you teaching it to others? If you're sitting there shuffling in your seat thinking "What am I doing here?", well exactly what are you doing here?"

This is the danger of coming to church to consume, instead of contribute. It is no longer relevant, you no longer need this.

**We want to be a church where you are hungry to grow in faith because you know "you're going to need this."**

To do this here is the rough plan [slide]

**Expect** people to help others follow Jesus

- Year 9 leading bible study...cmp with struggle to find gg leaders.

**Equip** and resource so people can help others follow

- Relevance matters. You will not be interested in evangelism until you are with someone who is a seeker...

**Pursue** opportunities for people to help others follow

- Not just for us and our church, but we are a church that helps others, not just you are helping

our church. Might think – have enough. Qu not  
how many we need, but how many does the  
world need?

**Engage** people to help others follow

- Am I encouraging you in your efforts? Am I stirring your spirit?

**I wonder how you can help others follow Jesus?**

- Not all are preachers, (although there are more here than preach in our pulpit)
- Raising family, encouraging friends, P2P, GG leading, Mentoring / EWF / financial support / prayer / Support church communities
- There are more opportunities than you can possibly know pursue. Prayerfully seek an opportunity that will stretch you and say yes to it.

**Celebrate** people following and helping others follow Jesus

Do you want to be part of a church that helps others follow?

People leaning forward in faith because they know “they need this” to help others

People with a sense of contribution, purpose

More people following Jesus

Response/Prayer/Care cards