

Tell it on the Mountain...

The Sermon on the Mount; The Beatitudes

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ²He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying... Mathew 5 : 1

It was radical. The location. It was a mountain top. And here a young Rabbi. The Teacher.

May be sitting on the Mountain, the crowds could have caught a glimpse of the Temple, yet the common folk who did not have access to the holy portals of the Temple, are now eager to listen to the things of God.

God has surely created us with the spark of eternity in our hearts.

(Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NASB) ¹¹He has made everything \pounds appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart)

But through ages we see religion becoming powerful and exclusive, leaving out the poor and the weak.

This also happens today. When a church becomes very 'blessed'(read rich), people do not want those with rags coming in and sitting with them. The thing I love most about free churches is that they receive the poorest of poor and make them feel important. But if they are used inside the church for odd jobs then they would be hurt once again.

But Jesus received them as His own and went where they were. He took His good news to the people, the ones who would not have been allowed inside grand churches.

It is so important that when we boast about Jesus being our God, then we should also take care in treating the way Jesus treated other people.

Loving everyone, and taking the Good news of the Kingdom to everyone. As I am reading the gospel once again, I am so struck by the fact that Jesus always came back to the poor again and again. They were so important for Him. When we neglect those who are precious in God's sight we neglect Jesus Himself.

After England became a protestant nation, in the seventeenth century, people could read the Bible in English. The Church of England made it a law that only ordained preachers with a license, should preach and that too only inside the churches.

Slowly these churches became so elite, that the common folk altogether dropped out of church. The whole nation was plagued with drinking and debauchery. So John Bunyan so burdened about this poor people, started preaching outside the church and he was imprisoned for six years just for that. It was in the Bedford prison that he wrote the famous *Pilgrim's Progress*.

A century later, when young John Wesley was touched by the Holy Spirit he was preaching everywhere. But his preaching did not go well with the Anglican church and he was banned. Wesley was distraught as how to preach. It was then Whitefield the American revivalist who visited England urged Wesley to do open air meetings. At first the orthodox Wesley hesitated but then Whitefield showed Mathew 5 : 1, which made Wesley preach to the masses atop his father's grave in Epworth!

The Word of God is unchained. Go tell it on the Mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go to where the people are.

Go to the people who long to hear the good news of the Kingdom. Let the people hear....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXsJuaOLpUY&feature=related>

One of the beautiful songs I treasure. It's quite nostalgic, we as a choir in Lady Doak College kept on singing this song for a long time and never tired of it. Songs as these bring back happy memories of past. As I wrote this message, suddenly from somewhere the words, "I'll shout it from the mountain top..." came to my mind and so glad to find it in youtube. The lyrics aren't there so if you want, here it is

It only takes a spark to get a fire going.
And soon all those around, can warm up in glowing.
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it, you spread His love to everyone;
You want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding;

The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love;
Once you've experienced it, you want to sing
"It's fresh like spring"; you want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found.
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain top - PRAISE GOD
I want the world to know; the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.