**Listen to Him - Preach Notes 29/03/2020**

We all live under the authority of someone - whether that is your boss, pastor or prime minister. These are people we (on the most part) trust, respect and obey.

Ultimately, we are all under God’s authority, and should listen to him above earthly authorities.

***Exercise***: Close your eyes and imagine what God looks like. Share what you see and discuss - does what you imagine have any relation to earthly authorities in your life?

***Read*** Matthew 17:1-8.

Prior to the transfiguration, the disciples had seen Jesus in action. He wasn’t what everyone expected or were waiting for. He was an ordinary looking man, he had no army or crown, and preached an upside down kingdom.

***Discuss*** how the expectations of those waiting for the Messiah weren’t met, and how Jesus exceeded them in ways many failed to understand. Why was it important that Jesus came to earth in this way, instead of being born in a palace with an army of angels?

The transfiguration was an opportunity for the inner circle of disciples to see a glimpse of Jesus’ true glory. They knew he was the Messiah, but still they were terrified when they saw just a small display of his majesty!

Peter’s first reaction was to suggest building shelters for Jesus, Moses (who represented the law) and Elijah (who represented the prophets). He didn’t get to finish his suggestion - God interrupted! Perhaps Peter should have stopped trying to put God in a box and instead focussed on listening to him.

***Discuss*** how we can try to put God in a box and limit his power.

Our interpretation and comprehension of God is limited. All we have to compare him to is earthly leaders - but he is so much more! He is the highest king, far above us in power, knowledge and sovereignty. Yet at the same time he draws close to us, understands us and loves us deeper than we could ever comprehend.

***Take a moment*** to think about that.

Throughout the Bible there are many difficult trials and troubles that people have faced. God has worked through it all - it is always in his hands.

***Read*** Matthew 8:23-27.

While the storm **is still happening** Jesus says: *‘You of little faith, why are you so afraid?’*. The disciples couldn’t see beyond the storm - Jesus could. If only they had listened to Jesus and truly heard what he was saying to them, then they may have understood that God is with us in every storm, and is completely in control.

God is the ultimate authority, leader, parent, and friend. He is in control, he knows every storm we are going through and when the sea will be calm. He wants to give each of us a glimpse of his glory - we just need to **listen to him**.

***Challenge for this week***: choose to listen to God above the noise. Above the news, social media, other voices - choose Him. Explore new ways to connect with God, for example by walking in nature with worship music or reading a Psalm a day as a family.

Discuss what you did at your next meeting - and what you heard from God!

God bless you all!