

Preaching Dates

Sunday 19 July 2020

Hazel Brooks (am) via YouTube channel at Larkhall Baptist Church

Graham Bruno (am) in a pre-recorded YouTube service for Bridge of Don Baptist. Also doing a Summer Road Trip through the Psalms at Bridge of Don and sharing in a Zoom get-together afterwards on the same subject.

Glen Cartwright (am) via Zoom at Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church

Stephen Ilett (am) via Zoom at Dingwall Baptist Church

Dawn Martindale (am) via pre-recorded YouTube video at Rosyth Baptist Church with bible study discussion, prayers and communion.

Jim McNulty (am) at St. James', Fuerteventura, in a video of a sermon that will be shown during the live church service.

Willem Smit (am) in a pre-recorded message for Lossiemouth Baptist Church



“Boldness”

By Jim O'Hara

Alistair Begg recently examined the early church's response to persecution and said, “Amidst political agitation and social disintegration, what is the church called to do? This is not a time to sound retreat, but reveille. Rather than seek protection or deliverance, the disciples prayed for Spirit-filled, Christ-centered boldness to continue to speak God's word. As cultures and empires rise and fall, God still emboldens His people to proclaim the Gospel to a lost, destabilised world”.

In my daily readings, I was recently reminded of the events recorded in Acts 5, where the high priest and all who were with him arrested the disciples and put them in prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Despite the threats and intimidation from the rulers, also the elders and teachers of the law, the disciples were obedient to the instructions of God and obeyed Him.

The passage goes on, telling us how the high priest and all his entourage, as well as the council and the senate, had been jointly convened to hear and try Peter and John. But when they sent to the prison for them, they were not there, despite the prison still being guarded, locked and secure. It is recorded the captain of the temple and the chief priests were greatly perplexed, until someone recognised Peter and John teaching people in the temple grounds.

The passage reminds us of the need to pray for boldness and obedience as we preach. When we are invited to speak in places we are not familiar with, as we pray and prepare, we must pray that we are faithful to the task we have been called to do and ask for the boldness to carry this out.

Peter answered the synagogue leaders, “We must obey God rather than men...we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

As we come out of lockdown, let us accept the requests we receive to speak with the full authority we have been given. May we perplex those who won't listen and help lead others to find the Saviour.