

## 5. Infectious Discipleship - Bible Study

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

**Matthew 28:19-20**

When Peter saw this, he said to them: Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

**Acts 3:12-14**

### Some thoughts:

People don't choose to be infectious; they just are. Bugs get out, all you have to do is be there and be honest. (John 9)

If you've been infected by the Gospel bug, people will catch it (Acts 3.13-14). They can catch your bug even when the symptoms don't show in you (Acts 3.12).

But you can't fake a bug - or if you do it won't be infectious (Acts 19.13-16).

What people will catch is the bug that really got you, not the one you wish you'd caught. If you're pretending, like a child trying to get off school, you might look ill but you won't have a temperature (Rev 3.16).

In other words, deep calls to deep (Ps 42.7).

The discipline of an infectious discipleship is to culture the gospel bug and then to keep sneezing honestly (Matt 28.19-20).

### Questions

1. *What is it about being a Christian that you REALLY like? (Be honest. Don't just answer to please the Vicar or the Bishop!)*
2. *What is it about going to church that you REALLY like? (When I was a teenager it was the girls in the youth club. It isn't that any more, God's moved me on a few steps; but God had to start there!)*
3. *What would you REALLY like about England if it was closer to the values of the Kingdom of God?*
4. *What is it about the people you respect as Christians that you REALLY value? What have they infected you with?*
5. *What are the antibiotics that kill the Gospel bug in you, and make you dead and clean?*
6. *How can you culture the gospel bug in you so it becomes even more infectious? (Be honest. It may be more Bible studies and retreats, it may be listening to sermons from someone who inspires you, it may be a chat in the pub with a Christian you really respect, it may be having a week off church, reading a novel, walking in the hills. Whatever it is, get it clear in your mind. The facts are friendly.)*

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