

## What type of society do we want? (Luke 9:28-43) Soldiers or police everywhere

**Story:** *Pax Romana*, was the Peace of Rome, enforced by Roman Soldiers.

**Story:** I was attacked as a kid at Rowley Park. So I joined the police force.

**Story:** I saw a guy making a mess at Clare Rise spilling red curry on ash felt. I said, 'no!'

**Story:** **Demo. Republic Congo** Chinese cobalt, mine, corrupt leaders. Cf. **Rwanda**: good.

**Story:** Clare Sanders Tyre & Batteries helped ppl mercifully, bills.

Jesus is eager that people hear God's Word, and let it have a practical outworking in their lives. In today's passage (Luke 9:28—43a), we hear Jesus—who is patient and kind—speak some very sharp words to his disciples, and to the wider society. '*You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you?*' (Luke 9:41)

One of the vital roles of every community is to help determine and influence the type of society we live in. We are not just a bunch of individuals, lumped together. We are a community:

- And, I am sure we don't want to live in a nation at war. We want a community at peace.
- We don't want to have all buildings and no parks. We want a beautiful layout.
- We don't want children to be unprotected, unloved, criminal and left as orphans. We want children who are safe, loved, good kids as part of a *family* where they can flourish.
- We don't want a hopeless, powerless, pessimistic society. We want a community that lives with true hope, with the ability to get good things done, and with teenagers who anticipate and engage in the greatness of life, with a view to a real, and eternal destiny.
- We don't want a boring society, but one where there's fun, music, enjoyment & variety.
- We don't want a selfish, or greedy society but a helping and self-giving society.
- **The Church of God**, has a vital role to influence human society to good.

\*\* *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work* (1 John 3:8b).

Some of the works of the devil are to steal true hope, kill off genuine life, and create war and mayhem, which destroys true community, and families and life.

- People need God. As a fish needs water, people need God.
- We are created to know God—through Jesus Christ and his Spirit—and to draw upon God's strength, guidance, presence and grace in our lives.

### Jesus prepared the disciples over 3 years, with practical lessons, teaching, watching - to minister grace and truth, and Spirit living, to the community:

#### (1) Jesus took the disciples **up on the mountain**

- to show them the greatness and glory of God, and to reveal his identity as the Chosen Son of God.
- They were weighed down with sleep.
- They saw his glory.
- They were terrified, and then they were told to listen.

#### (2) **Down off the mountain**, the disciples, the society, and a father

- All People were **all** seemingly **powerless**
- Against a *demonic spirit seizing*, sickening and **mauling** the father's only little son.
- Jesus steps into the faithless scene, he rebukes the unclean spirit, & heals the boy!

*'And all were astounded at the greatness of God'* (Luke 9:43).

Our nations, societies, communities need renewal, and hope. And faith. Yes, faith. How long must Jesus be *with us*, and *bear with us*? The Living Son of God has come into the world to be with us forever, and to bear our sins in their entirety, to die for us, to rise in power, for us, and to reconcile us to the Father eternally. This is a plan to redeem. It is plan to make life good for boys and girls, and parents too. *The God who heals, makes all things new.*

**Prayer:** May we share in your redeeming mission, Lord, to see society filled with your glory, as the waters cover the sea. **Trevor**