

All ages service 16/02/2025 – Cogs in motion

- 1) Hi all, I hope you're doing well. How are you doing? Feeling good? Feeling comfy?

Don't worry, I haven't planned to ruin your comfort this morning.

Other than being genuinely interested in how you all are, I just wanted to see if you all remember what had happened the last time that I asked you that exact series of questions.

Last time I was stood here delivering a sermon to you all, (You know, it still feels so strange to say that. "Delivering a sermon". I do this every 2 weeks with the guys who are up there chilling on the balcony, the youth at embrace. Yet to stand before a full congregation and deliver a message is just such a great reminder to me of the inside out and upside down world that Christ brings us in to when we accept him as King. I absolutely love it).

- 2) So last time I was here, we learned about the life of Duncan Campbell, the revival of the Isle of Lewis and Christine and Peggy Smith.

We looked at how every part played during this time, worked toward the revival that was seen on the isle of Lewis.

Each person acting as an individual cog on a wheel that builds towards the Grand machine that God is willing for us to be a part of.

- 3) When we look inside a clock, we see many wheels. Some are bigger than others and some are smaller, and this is a really great visualisation of how God uses us as individuals.

- 4) Last time I was leading, we spent a large amount of time looking at Duncan Campbell and his life, all the steps he took with Christ and how he dedicated his entire life to spreading the Good News and teaching others about Jesus.

I continued on and told you of how he saw himself at the epicentre of the Revival on the Isle of Lewis.

Thousands wanted to hear from him and would gather from near and far to hear the Word. It really seemed to be amazing, all the work that he did. But the point I made last time is that not everybody is called upon to be a Duncan, to walk the streets, Gospel in hand and preach to the masses.

- 5) Regardless, would you agree that it's fair to say that Duncan could be represented as one of the individual cogs on this...

- 6) bigger wheel? Yes?

- 7) Okay, cool. So other than Duncan. The last time I lead, we also learnt of Christine and Peggy Smith.

Christine and Peggy prayed 3 nights a week for 5 hours at a time and were so devoted that they inspired groups of ministers to gather in prayer for 2 evenings each week to pray for

revival at the same time as them.

Some of you may currently be a Christine or a Peggy who pray and pray.

Someone such as Pam who I really hope you don't mind me saying, Pam.

I find Pam to be a hugely inspirational woman and so strong in faith. On more than one occasion, as I have arrived at the church, I have seen Pam, deep in prayer as she has made the effort to come out and pray over the life of this church, the groups held within the walls and all the people in it.

What about the various prayer groups that go on. There are the ladies who meet on a Monday lunch time, there's the Prayer group who come on a Monday evening and put up with all the noise made from J4, Base and Aftershock.

There's the prayer group that Margaret has set up on a Thursday, or you may even just take the time to continuously pray through the prayer menu that is so diligently put together each week.

- 8) Christine and Peggy weren't heavily involved in the revival physically like Duncan was. But they were definitely, undeniably used by God to spark His revival on the Isle of Lewis all those years ago.

Praying 3 nights a week for 5 hours at a time is no small feat. So, do you think that it is fair to say that Christine and Peggy Smith could be represented as individual cogs this...

- 9) medium wheel?

- 10) Yes?

- 11) As I opened today's sermon with "Feeling good? Feeling comfy?" you may have gotten little shudders remembering that at the end of the last sermon that I felt God given me to deliver to you. I asked of you all to carry out a seemingly simple task.

Sending a text is normally an easy thing to do yeah?

So I asked you all to text one person in your contacts that you know isn't a Christian and open up a dialogue about faith with them.

- 12) All of a sudden, that easy task didn't seem overly easy anymore. There were questions of who to pick and fears of looking silly, of turning friends away from us. And understandably, some of you opted not to send a message and seriously, that is okay.

- 13) Some of you however, did send your messages and it was beautiful to hear the fruits flourishing, the conversations that some of you had as a result of this.

Verity stood before you all the week after and shared the story of how she had delayed sending a message but then felt compelled to text her sister, Natalie, later that week.

She shared the wonderful story of the conversation that ensued with someone that she didn't know how her text would be received after the difficult year that Natalie had had.

The reply Verity got was great. Even though she felt maybe God was mad with her, Natalie

still gave her trust to God saying:

“He’s given me so much like my beautiful girls so I trust Him and trust that He knows what He’s doing with me.”

And I’m sure that for Verity, it was a true blessing to know that her sister does have some sort of a relationship with God that in some way, she is willing to put her life into His hands. She recognises what He has done for her throughout her life and hasn’t forgotten that through any rough patches or any shakiness in her faith.

While we’re here. I was wondering. Would anyone else like to share testimony of the fruits resulting from the messages sent?

(Give opportunity for people to come to the mic)

- 14) I personally didn’t get that good of a response from the person that I had initially intended to message. I had intended to message my brother, Alexander. But this clearly isn’t who God wanted me to message on that day.

I rushed to send my message, and in that rush, I accidentally sent it to an old college friend of mine, Alex. After realising my mistake I also message Alexander too.

The response that I got from my brother (4 DAYS LATER) was as follows:

“I’m alright thank you. Though the thought is appreciated”

My mum has said to me that this is actually a resoundingly positive response from Alexander when in relation to faith so I’ll take that.

Funnily enough, my sister also chose him as her person to message the week after when she watched our service on catch up and this was the reply that she got... after 10 minuets as opposed to my 4 Days I would like to add...

- 15) He assumed that it must have been a Joke as he had received the same message from me “word for word”

I would just like to add that it was not word for word. I might be dyslexic but it still bothered to type “you” and “your” correctly and also used a little I for “in” ... RUTH

- 16) The good outcome that I did have and the reason that I said that Alexander “clearly isn’t who God wanted me to message” was because I actually ended up having a brilliant conversation with my friend Alex.

We hadn’t seen each other for at least half a year.

I was either just about to start or I had only just started my role here at DBC the last time we met. Either way, a catch up was well overdue.

- 17) His reply to the message, “I’d love for you to know Jesus. Where are you in your faith?” was,

- 18) “I’m not really sure. I don’t think about it all that much”.

- 19) So this left me in a terrible position of then trying to think what on earth to respond with.

I decided to follow the same path as Duncan Campbell and use the personal experience that God has given to me. I ended up asking him if I had actually told him my testimony and how I

ended up with the “job” I’m in now. He said that I hadn’t and we decided that we should meet and have a catch up, I could tell him then amongst other general chatter.

- 20) We ended up going for a pub meal. Not that it’s important but I had an extremely tasty surf and turf and Alex had a burger. But we had a great time reminiscing on our time at College and what he had been up to, how his work was going. All the usual stuff.

We then spent a good 2 hours talking about faith. He spoke about his time at scouts and becoming a young leader to help out there and how despite not being religious, he always enjoyed the bits of church involvement that came along with it. We spoke on the meaning of life, creation, his belief of knowing that there is something more after life but holding off searching because deep down he knows it means undergoing big changes in life. I told him about all the changes that have happened in my life and how God used it all for good, that the things one might think they would miss weren’t hard to give up at all and once I had the Holy Spirit come over me, I simply didn’t want them anymore and didn’t miss my old life one bit.

We spoke about:

forgiveness

grace

mercy

and God’s love for us.

What he did when he died for us, when he took to the cross and although as far as I know, Alex hasn’t given himself to Christ yet. I know that this conversation will have sown some very important seeds that will flourish in the future, whether it be in this coming year or a long way in the future, as long as we pray, it is all to come.

All of this because of accidentally sending a message to someone I hadn’t meant to send it to.

Now.

Do any of you know the Moody church?

No not them over there...

- 21) The Moody church, Chicago.

- 22) It was founded in 1925 by Dwight L Moody?

He was another great Evangelist. He ministered to countless numbers of people and his biggest critic even stated that in his time, he had “reduced the population of hell by a million souls”. He ran the largest Sunday school group in Chicago and founded 4 institutes for teaching the bible to young men and women to ensure that he kept helping Christ win back souls after his inevitable passing later in life.

- 23) Like Duncan Cambell, you would say that he is another pretty big cog guy, right?

- 24) Well, although he was known for bringing countless people to accept their salvation.

There were still some souls close to him that he struggled to win over.

People who were really close to him personally but no matter what words it was that he

used in an attempt to sway and convince them, it wasn't something that he himself could do,
So what do you think he did?

(allow response)

25) He committed them to prayer and let God do his work.

Let me ask you, should we use prayer as a last resort?

No.

Sorry, speak up.

NO

Right, it should be our first port of call.

26) Dwight wrote 100 names of these close friends and loved ones onto a list.
he carried that list with him literally everywhere he went and he prayed over every single
one of those people on a daily basis.

Would anyone like to guess how many of those 100 people had been saved and come to
know Christ before Dwight died?

(get some answers)

27) 96

96% is a pretty good success rate wouldn't you say? Just through the power of prayer and
letting God do His work. Not through human understanding and applying pressure. Simply
through prayer, 96 out of those 100 people came to faith before he died.

Well... it actually gets better.

28) When those final four people all attended his funeral, they were heavily moved and each and
every one of those four gave their lives to Christ then and there at his funeral.

Just because you don't see them come to faith doesn't mean it hasn't, didn't or won't
happened. Even if someone dies. NEVER doubt their salvation because you do not know if
they have accepted Christ as king.

29) Okay, so some of you might be thinking that 100 people is maybe too many for you.
You've got a busy life and haven't really got time to pray over 100 people each day. Maybe
you don't know 100 people personally that you'd need or want to pray for.

Remember. We all agreed that Dwight was another big cog guy didn't we? Yes.

I'm not asking any of you to suddenly jump up to push yourself to be a big cog or even a
medium cog person.

That Cog placement is between you and God.

Yes, I think that sometimes it can definitely feel like He is pushing you to be a bigger cog than you feel comfortable being.

but realise that He is not.

He has already taken that step ahead of you and is reaching out his hand encouraging you to take it and so He can pull you closer to Him.

That is just His way and trust me when I say, He wants the best for you.

He Loves you.

He loves you to the absolute ends of the earth. He loves you so much that he came down to earth to live in human form and took to the cross taking on our justified punishment so we might be forgiven.

So is it really all that much to ask that you trust He wants nothing but the best for you when He asks you to be and to do more?

30) Speaking of love; we have just passed valentines day and that is why I chose todays passage from John 17.

I would argue that John is the most loving of the four gospels. The author continually refers to himself as "The one whom Jesus loved". And the purpose of the book as written in John 20 is that "we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have LIFE in His name."

The book of John tells us that the Jesus we read of is ALIVE and REAL and that He can change our lives forever.

Now isn't that great?! Doesn't that stoke the fire in your heart just hearing that?

The passage that we have heard today, I find to be so, so beautiful. It comes Just before Jesus is arrested and is one of his final moments of freedom, yet He takes that time to give us the longest prayer found in the entire New Testament.

He uses that time to pray over us.

A prayer From the mouth of Jesus Himself directly to the Father.

Earlier in todays service We heard a large portion of John 17 but now I want us to just focus on this smaller section which I will read once again for you now.

31) John 17:20-23

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

(Pause)

I really am stuck for words with just how touching that is. Just how selfless Jesus is.

In verse 20, He prays “for those who will believe”. That is you and me here and now, all of those who have gone before us and all of those yet to come to faith.

- 32) I hope that you’ve been praying for revival since I last spoke. Looking around us now and seeing the beginnings, I’m fairly certain that you have been.
I don’t want to embarrass anyone right now by asking people to stand up, so I just ask you all to take a second to look around you and actually take in just how many new faces there are in amongst us all.

(to those of you who are new, I’m really sorry that I haven’t had the chance to say hello to you yet. I have been trying to make a deliberate effort of coming to introduce myself and get to know you, but every time I take a step I end up in conversation with someone else or you have already been collared by one of the many wonderful people that make up our family here at DBC. Anyway, Hi, I’m Joshua. I’m the youth worker for the Church)

on the 26th of January, Moyra spoke of how she feels this excitement inside of her that we are entering into a new season and it is going to be really exciting season.
I couldn’t agree more!
I don’t know about you, but seeing all these new faces is pretty exciting and know that this is just the beginning.

Revival is something I really felt and still feel the world is desperate for. An acceptance of faith in Jesus and an overall feeling of unity as Jesus prays for in Verse 21 of John 17.

But maybe revival is a bit too generalised for you. Maybe you feel a little anxious about the prospect of all the incredible and unexplainable events that happen around revival like the ones I spoke of back in November.

So let’s narrow it down a bit, try to make it a little more manageable and a little less stressful. I have 2 things for you here today to help aid this.
The first I have for us is something we can do as a whole church. The second is a task for you personally.

What I want us to do as a church is to take all of this revival talk down to a personal level. A level where we can take encouragement from physically seeing God in action among small numbers of people as well as large when that time comes.

- 33) So what I have created for us is a prayer board.

This is how it will work.

- 34) pick someone you know that isn’t of faith yet,

- 35) it might be that someone you texted last time.

- 36) It might be somebody different.

37) If you are watching from home then please feel free to email me a name and I will add it onto our board.

What I want you to do next is if you pass the board and have some time then pray over the people individually. You might want to pray for one or two or you might want to take the time to pray for every single person on there.

When the person that you have written on the board comes to faith

38) please colour them in green

39) and then add a new name for us to pray for.

40) .

41) This way

42) we can all enjoy

43) seeing the Holy Spirit in motion.

44) And look forward to a sea of green

Sound good? :D

GREAT!

So that was the first task I have for you today.

Easier and less daunting than sending a text isn't it?

So what about the second?

Earlier, as I spoke about D L Moody's prayer list, I guessed that some of you would be thinking that 100 people is maybe too many for you. You either don't know 100 people or 100 people is far to many for you to pray for.

Well, we're going to make it much more manageable.

45) Guys on the balcony. Can I get a shout for what this is? (DTI)

When we were at DTI (Dreaming the impossible) in the summer last year, we learnt of these really cool prayer diagrams.

46) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2PBYVOBYHg&t=382s>

So you've probably guessed what I'm going to say next. Make an Oikos map for yourself. I even have some pre-made sheets for you here.

47) I know I give out a lot of information and the video is fairly fast paced so don't worry if you didn't catch it all. I have put the link to the video in the Sermon notes so you should be able to easily find and watch it again.

What I am also going to do is write my own Oikos map here in front of you now so we can visualise together.

So we start with Joshua.

And you know what. I know they didn't in the video but Just for good measure,

48) I'm going to add Jesus into my centre bubble with me. Non of this would be possible without Him and He really is the true centre.

So lets have 5 sections (split into 5)

We'll start with...

49) FAMILY... Now, I told you about my brother, but I'll be putting him on the prayer board, my parents and sister are also already Christian and so he has plenty of influence around him. so, Ian (my Father in law) can go there. Then we can extend to my sisters and brother in law, Kayla, Tia and Ross.

Next we have...

50) FRIENDS... here I'm going to put my friend Alex who I told you about earlier. In roads have obviously started to be made here and it's nice to ask God to nurture these and help Alex desire to know more and ask more questions.

After that, we have...

51) NEIGHBOURS... I'll put my next door neighbour Nicola. She has her daughter Phoebe, her partner Danny and then her and Danny have their son, Rowan and they have just had a daughter, Jessica.

Danny also has a son from a previous relationship and so I'll draw him a little bubble but I don't know his name. But like the video said, that is okay. Those bubbles will get filled.

After that, we have...

52) COLLEAGUES.... I don't really need a colleagues tab because I should hope all of mine are already Christians.

Instead, I have put one of Sian's colleagues, Jake. I know Sian's colleagues relatively well from going out at the end of term and other functions.

Jake (although he's a united fan, he) is a really nice lad and Dylan acts as a little evangelist when he see's him. Dylan gets Christian songs stuck in his head. It's got to the point now where me and Sian will be sat around and at any given point receive a call which is purely for the sake for him and Isla to sing "Amen, Praise the Lord" or "Do Lord" down the phone at us.

So I pray that this seed grows

That brings us to our final box of...

53) LEASURE...

Now, I'll be honest.

When I was writing this, I began to feel like a reyt old fuddy duddy.

I realised that I don't actually do anything.

Everything I do is to do with church so this one was quite hard to choose.

Ashley, can I ask you to come join me at the front please?

Noe, Ashley, you might have guessed by now and I don't know how you feel about this, but I've chosen you and I pray for you every single day.

Me and Ashley were in a band together for 8 years and he is otherwise know as "the drummer".

One of the last times I saw him, we met up and I shared my testimony with him, played him the testimonial song that I had written and we had a jam. Even though as far as I'm aware, Ashley isn't of faith yet. we ended up writing a worship song together.

This is why I've asked Ashley to be here today so that we can play that song together

(Song - Whole again)

54) (Cog toy for illustration)

I've spoken about cogs a lot today. We've spoken cogs on big wheels and cogs on little wheels.

Whether you feel that you're a small, medium or large cog, you are no more or less important than any other. There is a place for you in this big machine of life that God has created

The thing is, if you were to take even the smallest cogged wheel out, The machine ceases to work.

55) Regardless of what you're called to do, be it taking to the streets with the good news, dedicating yourself to hours of weekly prayer, declaring a fast or simply praying through your oikos map.

Do something.

56) Keep your cogs in motion.

please, please, please. Pray for those you know who aren't of faith yet.

Please, please, please. Continue to pray that we see Revival.

And lets enter this new exciting season together, that we may all be as one, just as the Father was in Jesus and He is in all of us.

Amen.