

LIPHOOK METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY 5 JULY 2015, 10.am
TRINITY 5(B)

Readings: Mark 6:1-13

Something horrible said about us – not pleasant

Jesus' parentage being questioned?

Jesus not stopped by this but reacts quite sharply

Linked with limited success (!)

But who Jesus is not really about family relationships

Real question of Jesus' identity "is he the Messiah?"

We may say "Yes" – but what does that mean for us?

Jesus has modelled risk and "failure" (to some extent)

Sends disciples to do the same

The advice is to do as he did:

If they're welcome – that's fine – preach, cast out demons, heal – which is what they did

If they're not welcome – shake the dust off their feet, move on

The advice is to travel light:

Physically – not catering for every eventuality: umbrellas, scarves, gloves, woolly hat, sun block, sun hat, sun glasses, spare clothes ...

Not raising money for tickets and accommodation

Jesus encourages the acceptance of hospitality and building long term relationships

Metaphorically – not over trained, to needing years of preparation courses ...

No targets, no learning outcomes

Mentally – not over burdened with the success or failure of a particular mission, or in a particular place

Travel light

Context:

Jesus' advice to the 12

Mark's readers - a community that was insecure from Jews and Romans Gentiles and in the weakening of expectation of the imminent second coming

Why might "Travel Light" be good advice for us?

What excess baggage are we carrying?