

'Movement Day' Reflections

Some reflections arising from the London 'Movement Day' in October 2017.

A New Thing

God is doing a new thing. It's all about Jesus, Who calls me to leave my old life and join Him. Jesus is Lord, so what He says matters: "business as usual" is no longer an option, and He is speaking to us right now about integrity, unity and spirituality.

Integrity

Following Jesus means that we embrace both His mission and His message; it involves a radical change to both work and word, to both our lifestyle and our theology. Service to the poor is essential, as is the recognition that we too are the poor to whom Jesus preaches the good news.

Unity

Following Jesus means that we are united with all those who follows Him; and we are called to love and serve everyone, whether they know Him or not. If there is only one Body, then anything which builds one part of the Body at the expense of another part is counter-productive; if we are following Jesus with all we have, then all our resources are for building the kingdom.

Spirituality

Following Jesus means that we receive and express spiritual power; but we have seriously misunderstood the nature of spiritual power in God's kingdom. It is not power which enables me to get what I want, it is power which enables me to suffer and to serve so that God's purposes may be fulfilled through His people. Jesus' victory is found in the cross: when we meet other people in the place of human failure and brokenness, we discover God's presence in a new and powerful way.

A New Thing in Bristol

God is doing a new thing. In many ways, it is the same new thing He has been doing for the past two thousand years. But we live at a unique moment in history, and the opportunities and challenges which are coming our way right now will not be with us for long. The Church in Bristol has the opportunity to step up and see the people and institutions of our city touched by Jesus. Generations of faithful Christians have worked and prayed for the opportunity we have before us today: let us not squander it.

Next steps

This was written by Paul Hazelden as a contribution to the *Strong Foundations* exploration. You are welcome to use it and distribute it how you like, but feedback would be appreciated.

- Is it helpful?
- Would you change anything?
- Would you like to talk about how we can learn from each other about how best to follow Jesus where we are?

You can contact me through the web form at mad-bristol or join the conversation on the *Strong Foundations* site.

- Web form: <http://mad-bristol.org.uk/contact/>
- Strong Foundations: <http://strongfoundations.pbworks.com>

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