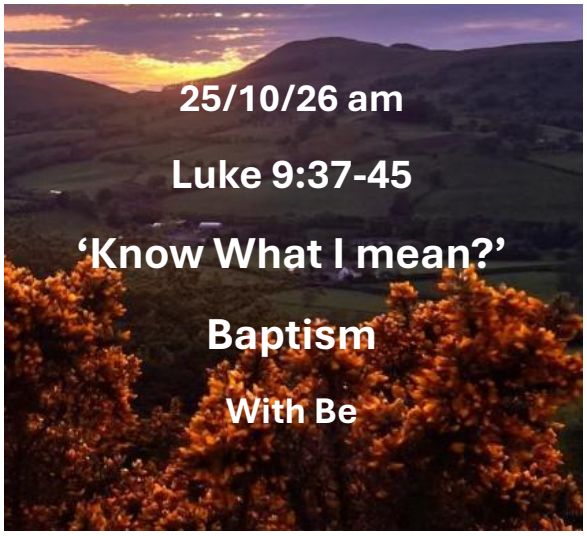

Kelly's Baptism Testimony

I wasn't brought up in a Christian family but sometimes I went to church with a friend and her grandparents when I was in high school. I've been in and out of church for some time and it has been a long journey to find my faith. I have always suffered with my mental health and have made attempts to end my life. But God had other plans for me here on earth and saved me by what I can see now was quite a miracle.

Things have been weighing on me for along time. I felt ashamed of myself until I came to God and asked for his forgiveness. Since the Lord's forgiveness, my life has turned around and I feel a peace I've never had before. I never feel alone with anything as I know now Jesus is beside me. I surrendered my life and everything to God, then I built my relationship with him and through the scriptures still am, so it is ever growing. Now I know for a fact that if life gets really hard he will send me strength and peace and no fear. Jesus has changed my life and I want to follow him.

I feel such a peace in my life now like I never experienced before. The Holy Spirit guides me to help others and to show forgiveness as God does. I can see now he has always been there even when I've not realised he is my Saviour. Today I die to my old life and sin and I let God lead me I and turn away from sin to let God's will be done through me. I will never be walking this life alone again. I've returned to my Father, the King of Kings.

Know what I mean? (Ben)

I grew up in London where I drove myself and everyone else mad by the phrase 'Know what I mean?' To which the response was, 'yah yah yah. I know what you mean'. We were reaching out for some recognition, acknowledgement and connection that our experience was understood by others. It is important to connect with people. We are relational creatures so it is sad that we read that "they [disciples] did not understand what he [Jesus] meant" (v45) even after he asked them to listen carefully to what he was about to say to them. It looks like they sat there silent instead of telling Jesus that they didn't understand. From here I see 'the posture of listening' but do you know what I mean? So many things could be going around in people's minds but are you listening; do you know what I mean? How often are we too embarrassed to ask our teachers to explain things because someone might think we are stupid when in fact if we asked we would be helping others who don't understand either. The disciples were afraid to ask. It is good to ask, to learn and to grow. Also, it seems as if the devil was at work distracting their thoughts. This little boy as thrown about by an evil spirit. The same kind of spirit may be throwing your mind about, distracting you from asking the question because if you do ask the question and you do understand then your life would change. You may think, 'I don't want to do what Kelly has just done, I don't want to turn from sin and walk in his ways. That wouldn't be good for me'. That friends, is a terrible, terrible lie! It's the kind of lie that gets whispered into people's ears and hearts. You might think, "If I ask then the 'cat is out of the bag' and I'll have to become a Christian."

Let's make sure we don't miss what Jesus is saying that was so important. He said, "the Son of man shall be betrayed (delivered) into the hands of men." (v44) Jesus has just done an incredible miracle. No one could help this boy but Jesus rebuked this

evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him, his precious, one and only son, back to his Dad. The devil was having an absolute field-day and everyone was so terrified about what was happening. Jesus says a word and suddenly this boy is recovered. All is well. How could someone with all this power be arrested and betrayed? Jesus is absolutely wonderful so why would anyone not want to love, serve and follow him? The same evil spirit that was chucking this boy around, that was preventing the disciples from asking the question was coming for Jesus. When Jesus called the twelve he said one of you is a devil. Although God was speaking they weren't listening properly. Jesus wanted to warn them; the devil was near and he would have his moment.

This miracle should give us a clue because all the miracles speak. A sign points to something and gives us information. The one and only son is seized by the devil to destroy him but through the power of God he is restored to his father. Is this miracle not a pattern of the exact thing that will happen to Jesus? Jesus will be betrayed into the hands of men, nailed to a cross and laid in a tomb so that it looks like the devil has won. But God in his almighty power raises Jesus Christ from the dead. King of Kings, Lord of all, greater than the power of death, of sin, of the devil. Jesus is Lord! Jesus is lord in that miracle. He is Lord every time someone recognises who Jesus is. He is Lord! The miracle tells us he will be betrayed but wait and see what the Lord will do. Wait and see. You won't know what wonder and glory is until you see when God raises Jesus from the dead. It's the greatest miracle of them all.

I am slightly conscious that it is Hallowe'en. We are not more powerful than the devil.

He is not a toy or a game. If you believe he is more powerful than you are, you would be right but that does not mean you have to make a deal with the devil. You don't need his support in the world. It is serious to get near the one who destroys people's lives. This passage tells us that Jesus is more powerful than the devil. So who are you going to trust? Who are you going to call on in this world where the presence of evil is at work. God is here by his Spirit. Call on his name. He can be trusted to protect you and keep you in this world and the world to come. He will lead you to things no eye has seen nor ear heard of the good things God has planned for those who love him.

Don't try to take on the devil on your own as the disciples did. Come to Jesus. That's where the healing power is. If you still don't get it, please, please ask someone to explain it to you so you can get a hold on all of this. Your soul is precious to God.