

Short Talk

(SHT127)

A very important message

© Jane Hulme 2018

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



SHORT TALK: “A very important message”

- Aim of Short talk:** To teach that some messages we receive need acting upon immediately, like the message that John the Baptist gave to the Jewish people living in Palestine.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Advent, John the Baptist, Messages
- Biblical references:** Luke 3:1-6
- Lectionary:** Year C – The 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Props:** You need 2 pieces of paper with the following messages typed on them:
1. You have left your car headlights on. Switch them off.
 2. You have forgotten to switch on the urn for coffee after this service. Switch it on.
- Before the Service:** Brief the people who will receive messages 1 and 2. Tell them to act upon the message immediately as if it were real.

.....

Sometimes in life we will be given a message that we have to act upon immediately.

- The message might be warning us of danger,
- or it could be telling us that there is something really important that we need to do.

After we have received that kind of message we have to ACT NOW for our own good or for the good of someone else.

I have some messages today where we need to ACT NOW.

- Who would like to come and be my messenger and deliver these messages?
(Receive volunteer)
- The first message is for N1 (Name of one of the people you have briefed earlier)
- Please could you take them this message and read it out to them? *(Volunteer takes message 1 to N1 and reads it out to them)*
- So N1 what are you going to do? *(Volunteer says that they will go and switch off their car head lights and leaves the church to do so)*
- N1 is going to switch off his car headlights. That sounds like a good idea!

What would have happened if N1 hadn't acted now? *(Receive responses)*

- So it was important that N1 listened and acted wasn't it, or their car battery would have gone flat and they wouldn't have been able to drive home after the service?

I have another message that needs delivering by my messenger. This second message is for N2 (Name of second person you have briefed earlier)

- Please could you take them this message and read it out to them? (*Volunteer takes message 2 to N2 and reads it out to them*)
- So N2 what are you going to do? (*Volunteer says that they will go and switch on the urn and leaves the church to do so*)
- N2 is going to switch on the urn. That sounds like a good idea for all of us!

What would have happened if N2 hadn't acted now? (*Receive responses*)

- So it was important that N2 listened and acted wasn't it or we wouldn't have had any hot drinks after the service?

One day God had a very important message for the Jewish people living in Palestine.

- He chose a man called John to be His messenger and the message was basically this:
- "You need to "switch off" doing wrong things and "switch on" living a God centred life as the Saviour is on His way."

Now this was a message where people had to choose to ACT NOW or not.

- John told them that as a sign that they were going to "switch off" doing wrong things and "switch on" living a God centred life; they were to be baptised in the Jordan River.

Lots of people listened to John and ACTED immediately.

Now all of that happened over two thousand years ago and shortly after John had given this important message to the people Jesus began His ministry,

- and the people who had acted by "switching off" doing wrong things and "switching on" living for God were ready to receive the gift of salvation that Jesus came to give.

So what about us today?

- Is there an important message for us to ACT on NOW?

Yes there is and it is this:

- One day Jesus is coming back to earth again.
- We need to "switch off" doing wrong things and "switch on" living a God centred life so that we are ready to meet Him.

Are you willing to ACT NOW because Jesus said that no-one knows when He will return?

- It could be any day soon.
- If we delay acting now, we might be too late.