

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

What would you like to be? Do you have any ambitions?

In answer to that questions, we had someone who:

Wants to be a vet

Wants to be an artist

Wants to be a doctor

Wants to run a marathon.

We met a boy in Cambodia 2 years ago; we discovered that he wants to be a rocket scientist. He's clever and smart, but he's living in poor place and perhaps his parents have died or have left him. Our friends look after; he lives in Safe Haven and goes to school there and his ambition is to build rockets. Our friends love him, care for him, and try to give him opportunities to make his ambition come true.

Here's why this is important! I found this as a poster a few years ago:

**You are...
Wonderful
Amazing
Loved
Valued
Unique
God made you like that!**

This is who we are now! This is not an ambition to become like this; this is who we are now, people who are wonderful, amazing, loved, valued and unique. The Bible tells us that God has made us, and every one of us is different, unique. We are made in God's image to love and be loved and God loves us. This is true of all of us as people: we are valued by God. So it is good to have ambitions and dreams and the best ambition and dream is about the kind of people we are and will become and we'll think a little more about that later.

THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE!

Who is this picture? *Katherine Grainger: why is she famous? She won a gold medal in London for rowing a boat very fast!* I don't know her and have never met her, but she is famous for winning an Olympic Gold medal in rowing with Anna Watkins. She won gold in London last year and her picture is everywhere; there is a huge picture of her on some scaffolding in Chambers Street, perhaps a picture that is 20 feet high! But before she won gold, three times she came second; a silver medal is huge achievement in itself, but she always had the sense of having failed; here's another picture of her in 2008 in Beijing when for the third time she had come second and not won gold; it is a picture of disappointment and failure. So when she won gold in London, it was a sweet moment of achievement.

Peter was sitting on the harbour wall one day, washing the fishing nets that he and his brother had been using the night before; they were fishermen, but had caught nothing; perhaps they had a sense of having failed? Jesus came along and asked to borrow their boat so that He could go out a little into the harbour to talk to the crowd standing on the beach. Then He suggested they go out to fish; this time they had a huge catch of fish, so big that the nets began to break and afterwards Jesus said to Peter and Andrew and

James and John, their business partners, to come & follow Him. *“Don’t be...” (Luke 5:10)* Great; here was an exciting new adventure! Following Jesus, they could watch Him do all kinds of exciting things, healing people; they could listen to Him say all kinds of amazing things and learn some great stuff! But it wasn’t always easy: there were times when Peter said the wrong thing – he didn’t know what to say, and was embarrassed, so he said the wrong things; there were times when Peter and the others argued with each other, and they argued about which of them was the greatest. They realised later that this had been a mistake! Towards the end, Peter even denied knowing Jesus! It was not always a great adventure; sometimes it was hard; sometimes Peter maybe even wanted to give up and go back to fishing.

“Forgetting...” (Philippians 3:13bf) Sometimes to make an ambition come true needs hard work. For the little boy to become a rocket scientist – it won’t happen without hard work and keeping going. We are people loved and valued by God already and Christian faith starts with God’s love for us and Jesus coming to the world and faith responds to that love by being the kind of people God wants us to be. But that’s not always easy: we know that God wants us to love Him and love other people, but sometimes we forget about God and hurt others. We do and say things that we know are wrong. The Bible takes us to the training pitch, or the athletics field and talks about *“pressing on towards the goal to win the prize...”* – it takes hard work to be the right kind of people. God helps us, but it is still hard work to be the right kind of people.

Being the right kind of people is the best ambition we can have. It is more important than being rich and famous, more important than being a rocket scientist, more important than running a railway or flying into space. It is more important to be people who are loving, patient, and kind; to be people who have faith in our hearts and who know and love God; to be people who care for others and who care for the world in which we live. It is not always easy to be the right kind of people, but it matters so much, and is so important. There are times when we get it wrong and think we’ll never get it right; there are times when we think we’ve failed and there’s no hope; there are times when other people laugh at us for trying to be good people and that makes it even harder. But don’t give up! Love God, love others; be the right kind of people.