

Elim Fountain of Hope Church, Oldham

The Manna

THEME: EVANGELISM – Being Salt & Brighter Light

21ST January, 2024

SESSION 4

TOPIC: THE EVANGELIST'S MESSAGE

REFLECTIONS FROM SESSION 3

1. What have you done to develop your skills as a fisher of men and women since your last small group meeting?
2. If you memorized Matthew 4:19, how have these words of Jesus impacted you?

A courtroom drama begins to unfold. You've seen dozens of these on TV. Closing arguments are presented by the two attorneys, and the jury goes into deliberation. After what seems like days, they arrive at their critical life and death decision. Everyone reassembles in the courtroom. The bailiff says, "All rise". The judge enters. The judge directs the accused and says, "Will the defendant please rise!" The defendant comes to his feet, fearful and unsure. The judge asks the head Juror, "Have you reached a verdict? The response is clear,

"We have, your honour" The words "Please read the verdict" are heard.

Tension is rising, in the courtroom. The defendant is perspiring as the words are read. "We the jury," (pause for effect)

"find the defendant," (drum roll)... The whole drama has been building up to the next few words. The wait is excruciating What will the verdict be?

Movie makers and television producers know how to milk these moments for everything they're worth. They make for good drama and high ratings. Sometimes the verdict is "guilty" sometimes "not guilty" Sometimes they break for a commercial before they tell you, and you just about blow your stack! There is nothing like the high drama created in those few short moments when the message of guilty or not guilty is communicated at last.

A WIDE ANGLE VIEW

1. When have you waited what seemed like an eternity for some critical news or essential piece of information?

How did you feel during this time?

A BIBLICAL PORTRAIT

Read Acts 2 v 14 - 41

2. What kind of drama do you see unfolding in this passage?

What are the critical questions and issues found in Acts 2 v 14 – 41?

3. What elements of the Gospel did Peter share with the crowd when they cried out, "What shall we do?"

How are these elements still central to the way we present the message of Jesus to seekers today?