

TRANSCRIPT

Young Church • 21 June 2020
St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow

In the Bible reading for today, Jesus tells his friends to be brave about speaking up.

Lately in Young Church, we've been thinking about speaking up. This week, Jesus has some advice about that. He says, when you've something to tell people, 'proclaim it from the housetops'. It's an expression that means the disciples were to share what they learned—really valuable things—in a very public way.

The pictures you're seeing right now are photos of rooftops around the City of Glasgow. They're pictures from up high. Look how many houses you can see from up here. It's amazing, right? Imagine if you were to have a great big loudspeaker and be able to speak to everyone down there. All those people would hear what you have to say. It'd be pretty epic!

It's worth thinking about how we tell people things when we have something to say. Because young people have really good insights; you know things that can help other people. That's worth remembering. Knowing that what you have to say is important should give confidence.

But what if we don't feel that confident? What if we're scared to speak out about something?

When folk have important things to say—things that matter—it makes a difference *how* they say them. For instance, if we want to tell someone that their house is on fire, we need to get that person's attention, let that someone know what we have to say is worth hearing. We wouldn't whisper to someone late one night, 'Get up out of bed! The house is on fire!' Instead, we'd turn on the lights, make some noise, and yell, 'Get up out of bed! The house is on fire!'

Jesus tells his disciples, 'Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies.' When you speak, make people listen—stand tall, don't cover your face. Look up and speak up—loud enough to be heard.

Young people like you have something to say—something people need to hear. Make sure they hear it. Shout it from the rooftops.