

## 1. Recognition

- Acetate of people from Fintry:
  - cover up with patterns and coverings - progressively reveal!!
  - see who can guess who is in each of the pictures!
  - *plus funny one(s) of me!!*
- Was it easy or hard to recognise who was in the pictures?
  - what made it easy/hard?
  - knowing the person?
  - recognising the occasion/building, so having some idea of who might have been there?

### Optical Illusions

- Let's try a different kind of recognising:
  - go through the three optical illusions, working through what is going on
- Even when things are plainly in front of us, sometimes it is hard to see clearly!!

### Paul Helping People Recognise Jesus

- Background:
  - missionary journey, sent out to tell people about Jesus by home church in Antioch (learnt about that last week)
  - map of Cyprus/Asia Minor
- In the passage we'll read shortly he arrives in **Pisidian Antioch**, and starts to **tell people about Jesus**:
  - he does that by starting with things they already know are true - stories from the Old Testament, stories that they recognise, reminding them of the hope God has given them that he would send a **Saviour**
  - they provide the backdrop, like the church in the pictures we saw earlier, making it easier to recognise the one he is introducing
  - in particular, talks about King David (David & Goliath), who was God described as a **"man after my own heart"**
  - then he introduces Jesus as one better, greater than King David - he rose from the dead!
- Paul is hoping that they will recognise Jesus as the Saviour God promised!
  - **is that who you recognise him to be?**

## 2. Response

- Policeman OHP: moving beyond recognition to response
  - who is on the picture? (recognition)
  - what would you do if you saw a policeman doing this? (response)

### Road Signs

- Put up sheet of road signs:
  - what are they? (recognition)
  - if you were driving, how should you respond as you see them? (response)
- Recognition rightly leads to response!

### Response in Psidian Antioch

- So here in Psidian Antioch - the people, Jews and Gentiles alike, who recognised Jesus as Saviour had a choice:
  - to reject Paul's message; to say "maybe Jesus is the Saviour... but I don't need him! I don't want him! I want to run my own life!"
  - (*Jews in synagogue who were jealous of the crowds (who hadn't been there the week before....!)*)
  - or to respond with faith, to believe in him and accept the gift/invitation he offers (v.43, v.48!)

### Consequences

- Put up "Which Path?" acetate:
  - which of A or B leads to C?: how many think A? B?
  - your choice has a consequence - whether you reach the destination or not!
- Perhaps not a very good illustration, since its either a blind choice or an obvious one if you've got steady eyes!
  - the choice we have is the on-going choice of faith
  - will we follow Jesus?
  - will we admit we are helpless and ask for God's help? (for that is what trusting Jesus means!)
  - or will we, like the threatened Jews, turn against Jesus?
- Perhaps you've fully recognised Jesus as your Saviour for the first time this morning.
  - or perhaps you've never really realised that recognition on its own is not enough - recognising Jesus as Saviour demands a response!
  - will you believe today?
- Speak to me afterwards if want to talk things through...