

Northern Saints

episode two notes

Caedmon

Caedmon was a humble shepherd who God spoke to in a dream. In the dream he heard a voice encouraging him to sing. He replied, 'But I don't know what to sing about'. The voice returned, 'start with the beginning of all things.' He then, in his dream, sung a song about creation. He then remembered it upon waking and it is the first Christian song we have written in colloquial English rather than imported Latin!

Singing is a central part of Christian worship. Why do you think this is? What happens when we sing together?

What is your relationship with corporate singing in church? Is it your preferred style of worship? Do you have any stories of where it really helped in a situation or changed your perspective on something?

Have you ever written a poem, song or any other form of spoken word to help you process or proclaim your relationship with God? How has it helped in your own spirituality?

Caedmon was not seeking out an encounter with God. He was simply looking after sheep in the land surrounding an abbey in Whitby. Yet time and time again in scripture we see God interrupting the normal routines of people to use them for His glory.

Have you ever been 'interrupted' by God in this kind of way? Have you ever felt him speak to you, comfort or encourage you on your commute, at work, when making breakfast with the kids or walking in the park?

Have you ever felt any dream you had was more than the result of cheese before bed? What did you feel God was saying through it? How did it feel?

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To sing in our first language was not a privilege that was widely accepted in corporate gatherings until the reformation in the 1600s. Until then, Latin was the norm. This meant that unless you could speak Latin, which only wealthy educated people could do, you would be excluded from engaging with God in song.

How has Caedmon's example changed how we can engage with God?

Even when we run out of words the bible says in Hebrews 8:26, 'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.' Have you had any experience of this? How did it feel that you didn't even need the right words to get through?

The voice in Caedmon's dream prompted him to simply start with the beginning of all things. Does being in creation or thinking of creation inspire you to worship? Why do you think that is?

**End your time together
individually writing a
song of praise to God.
If in doubt, start
with the beginning
of all things.**