

# **SERMON NOTES** - The Remarkable Story of Edward 'Ned' Trickett - A fresh beginning through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

[This is an outline of the narrative, with some key points that can be made to reflect the video. We suggest you play the video first and then deliver your talk. Add your own Scriptures and points as you like.]

## **The False Horizons of Earthly Achievements**

*"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" Matthew 16:26 NIV*

You can't normally look forward to a life of significance if you are born to a convict. Edward Trickett's father had an inauspicious start to life in Australia – arriving as a convict (albeit for a petty crime).

He was given freedom 14 years later and bought land on the shores of Sydney Harbour (back when the prices were somewhat lower than today). He began earning a living through one of the hardest ways: a stone quarry business.

He didn't have the luxury of machinery, but he had the next best thing: four strong sons. In what most people would see as a punishing regime – the four boys had to transport the stone across the harbour by rowing.

But just like his father, Edward was able to turn adversity into success – albeit in an earthly sense, by becoming good at rowing. He turned what must have been a hard chore at times into a platform to build a successful life on.

**Q: What can you look back on in terms of successes and achievements? What do you treasure the most? Of these things, which do you project to the world the most – how do you want people to perceive you?**

After being spotted by a publican he was sponsored to travel to London to compete in the world championship of single sculls. Thus, began Edward's road to earthly success and stardom. On 27 June 1876 he became the world champion, winning on the Thames.

## **Made for the Movies**

Picture the dramatic scene: the son of a convict returns to the land from whence his father was banished, and despite all the odds stacked against him, reaches the very top of his sport and makes history as the first ever Australian world sporting champion.

We could stop the story here and declare it to be a remarkable story of redemption, and a fresh start. It's the stuff films are made of. You couldn't write a better script.

However, developments in Ned's life from this point onwards would demonstrate that earthly redemption is very limited and transitory. We need something a lot deeper than momentary achievements or earthly redemption.

After winning the world championships again this time in Australia on the Parramatta River, he ventured into the pub business in Rockhampton, Queensland after his sporting career was over.

But times were tough, and his business venture failed. Trickett returned to Sydney with his wife, Maria and nine children - broke, desperate and at times suicidal.

### **An Encounter with True Redemption**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God." John 3: 16-21 NIV*

One day, walking the streets of Sydney, Trickett heard a street preacher, a barrister called E P Field. Moved by his message, Ned went back to Fields' chambers and gave his life to Jesus. Ned Trickett became a Christian and gave his life to Jesus.

This is the real story of redemption – the son of a convict who went on to reach the dizzying heights of international sporting success, only to feel a sense of hopelessness before finding Jesus.

Trickett's story represents the heart of Easter, to feel such hopelessness and loss and a reassessment of what really matters, and a chance to start again. A fresh beginning through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

"He is a happier man now than ever he was before because he has Christ within him, the hope of glory." Rev E. O. Knee

### **Life in A COVID World**

We have all had our world torn apart by something completely unexpected, something so global that there is no escape. We cannot get on a plane and go somewhere better; we are trapped in circumstances few ever expected. COVID has forced us to reassess our certainties about the future and it feels like we are in the middle of a film script, and that it will end soon.

Like Ned, we have been forced to reassess what we can have faith in, and the list is very short. No matter what we have achieved in our earthly life, no matter what we have accumulated in our earthly life – we now find ourselves without any certainties. This Easter we can take comfort in one unchanging, rock solid truth – Jesus offers us a fullness of life in the here and now irrespective of our circumstances, and the hope of eternal life beyond our earthly life.

Whether life for you is currently one of success, despair or just ordinary, you can discover the person of Jesus this Easter – the hope, joy and fullness of life He offers in the midst of our circumstances.

*INVITATION – provide an invitation to follow Jesus. Ideally, because this will be done online this Easter, have a resource you can provide a link to for people to read more or to contact you about making a commitment or at least wanting to.*

You can provide a link to our website: <https://www.otherstory.com.au/explore/>  
The Ned Trickett video is also found here as well as other videos made for Easter and Christmas.