

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 17th August 2014

THEME: DISCIPLESHIP

As we Gather

Do you sometimes get a restless feeling as if you are missing 'something' that would make your life complete?

This week both readings look at the principles of God's way / of godly living or righteousness. They help us find what motivates us.

Reading Scripture MATTHEW 5 : 17 – 19 and 19 : 16 - 22

Thinking together

Jesus was often accused of having no respect for Scripture because He and His disciples broke the traditional interpretations of God's commandments (see Mark 7:1-13). But Jesus' life and teaching give us instruction in how to live a godly life / a truly righteous life, and so find the blessing of heaven on earth.

What comprises godly living / true righteousness> Discuss

God's moral and ceremonial laws were given to help people love God and worship Him; and the civil law was given to guide daily living [see Exodus 20:1-17 Leviticus 1:2-3 Deuteronomy 24:10-11]. So when Jesus was accused of abolishing Scripture, He explained that He had come to complete its partial interpretation and to give the true meaning of its principles (Matthew 5:17-18). Jesus was not speaking against the Law, but against the abuses and excesses to which it had been subjected (see John 1:17).

Jesus obeyed the moral law completely, and although the ceremonial and civil laws are no longer relevant today, their principles remain – to worship and love a holy God and live a godly / righteous life.

How do we apply the principle of ceremonial law today? Discuss

Do we misapply / abuse the word of God today

- **with our traditions? Discuss**
- **with our lifestyle? Discuss**

Some people are expert at telling others how they should or should not live their lives, but they themselves miss the central point of God's Law

Do you know someone like this? Discuss

The incident recorded in Matthew 19:16-22, teaches the right and wrong idea of what religion is.

The man, like us, was looking for happiness, satisfaction and peace [eternal life – a life such as God Himself lives / characterised by God], and thinking in terms of rules and regulations, wondered what else he could do to attain this

What is the essence of a life characterised by Christ / God? Discuss

Jesus told the man to keep the commandments, notably listing all those that have to do with personal relationships and govern our attitude to our fellows. The man claimed to have kept all these commandments, but his inherent selfish attitude had made an idol of wealth (verses 21-22), and caused him to break both the first commandment (Exodus 20:3) and the second (Matthew 22:34-40).

What causes you to break the First Commandment? Discuss

What causes you to break the Second Commandment? Discuss

Why should all believers not sell everything they own? Discuss

In Closing

The attitude of our heart is more important than our actions.

Jesus knew that the only way we can be saved is to examine our hearts and determine our priorities

How can you examine your heart?

What are your priorities?