

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 27 July 2014

THEME: DISCIPLESHIP – Need for Instruction

As we Gather

Not everyone who does good things in Jesus' name will enter God's kingdom. Many think they are good people, but the final test is not what we think of ourselves or what others think of us, but what God thinks of us (Psalm 139:1-4). Obedience to His will is the test of true faith in, and love for, Christ.

Reading Scripture MATTHEW 7 : 21 - 28

Thinking together

Jesus is more concerned about our walk than our talk. He wants us to DO right, not just SAY the right thing, and warns against the self-deception of a verbal profession of faith without obedience to the will of God.

Those who do the will of God build their faith and thrust on the firm foundation of obedience. Their motivation comes from a heart filled with love and trust and gives rise to righteous actions rather than correct behaviour based on rules, social acceptance / popularity.

**Discuss the difference between 'righteous actions' and 'correct behaviour'
(see also Luke 6:43-45 & 16:14-15)**

It is impossible to separate what you do from what you believe, so a life built upon the foundation of faith and trust in Christ (Matt 7:24-25) gives rise to a hearing and responding disciple who is able to withstand the trials and crises of life (see James 1:22-27 and Romans 5:1-5).

**How do we know the Father's will? Discuss
(see Romans 8:9)**

Thoughtlessness, false beliefs, self-deception, stubbornness are some of the reasons why life crises and disasters overwhelm us (Matt 7:26). So often we profess God verbally but deny Him with our lives. It is difficult to live a Christian life. We need to ask ourselves

Have we paid a price to profess faith in Christ?
Are there godly fruits from our lives?
Does our faith in Christ last even through crises?

How can we test what we profess to believe? Discuss

In Closing

Today many do not know what Jesus said or what the Church teaches.

Our Lord demands two things of us – to hear and to do. To sum up, to be obedient to Him.

To learn to obey is the most important thing in life.

What is your reaction to this statement?

