

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 28th August 2016

## **THE JESUS WAY**

### **As we Gather**

Throughout His ministry, Jesus was passionate about truth and justice. He did not avoid confrontations which would expose hypocrisy and self-interest.

**Reading Scripture** Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1+10-16 Hebrews 113:1-8+15-16  
Luke 14:1+7-14

### **Thinking Together**

Luke 14:1 reveals the serenity with which Jesus met life. He never refused an invitation of hospitality – even from an enemy – and confronted hostility with grace. He knew exactly why the Pharisee invited Him for a meal (John 2:23-25)

**How do you react when confronted with suspicion and hostility? Discuss**

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews pointed out to his readers (and to us) that evidences of faith should appear in the lives of believers if we are really walking by faith and not by sight

**What are the qualities of a Christian life that give evidence of faith? Discuss  
(Hebrews 13:1-6)**

**In what tangible ways can love for others be seen in the everyday life of a believer?  
Discuss (Romans 12:10-18 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 Titus 1:8-9 Matthew 25:35-36+40  
1 Corinthians 6:15-20 Luke 12:15 Jeremiah 2:5-8+13 John 4:10)**

Jesus often taught the need for humility and hospitality. In Luke 14:7-11 He spoke of true (heart) humility – a fundamental grace in the Christian life (Philippians 2:1-16a), and in Luke 14:12-14 He pointed out that true hospitality is an expression of love and grace, while hospitality motivated by a need for social popularity is evidence of pride and selfishness

**Why do we find it so hard to be humble? Discuss (1 Samuel 16:7 James 4:6-8)**

Truly humble people make a realistic assessment of their weaknesses and strengths and commit themselves to serve. They compare themselves only to Christ. Human leaders can set examples which guide in attitude and behaviour, but they come and go. Only Christ remains, unchanging and eternal

**How does comparing yourself to Christ make you feel? Discuss**

Our motive for sharing / hospitality should be to praise God (Luke 12:11), not to 'buy recognition'. Motives behind generosity are many and varied – sense of duty, self-interest, to feel superior, an outflow of love

**Which of these motives play a part in – your involvement in ministry? Discuss  
your relationships with others? Discuss**

After AD 70 the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and Temple sacrifices ceased. Rabbis taught that theology, prayer, praise, penitence, the study of the law, and charity, were acceptable sacrifices. Christian / spiritual sacrifices believers offer to God are those which can be used by the Holy Spirit for spiritual purposes (Hebrews 13:15-16 Romans 12:1-2 Philippians 4:14-20)

**How do the ministries in your church bring glory to God? Discuss**

### **In Closing**

It is easy in today's world to serve / give / share with an attitude of 'what is in it for me?'

**What is your reaction to this statement?**

### **PRAYER**

God of majestic glory,  
you have revealed yourself in Jesus Christ  
who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.  
Direct us to walk the path of humility that at the last  
we might reign with Him in glory. Amen