

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 5th June 2016

TRUST AND OBEDIENCE

As we Gather

Human beings are created to glorify God (Isaiah 43:7) and are saved to glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Grace and calling go together (Galatians 1:11-17 Luke 1:15-17 and Jeremiah 1:4-10) and God is glorified by our trust and obedience.

Reading Scripture **1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24) Psalm 146 Galatians 1:11-24 and Luke 7:11-17**

Thinking Together

A simple act of faith produces a miracle when we trust in the Word / promises of God (1 Kings 17:8-16 [17-24] Galatians 1:11-24).

Luke's story this week tells of the pathos of human life, the compassion and the power of Jesus Christ, as he outlines

- * the ageless sorrow of the world (Luke 7:12)
- The amazing concept of Jesus, Son of God, being moved by another's pain (Luke 7:13)
- The divine power of Jesus as He gave life in place of death (Luke 7:16c)

Barclay has stated that we live in a world of broken hearts. Discuss this statement

The whole world was / is dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1) and in His compassion, and through Jesus, God has raised us to life with Him (Ephesians 2:4-7 John 3:1-18). We are no longer in bondage to sin or Satan (John 5:36). Nor should we be in bondage to human religious systems (Galatians 4:8-11 + 5:1)

Compassion has been explained as 'your pain in my heart'. It has no measure as it ministers to the needs encountered.

Everything Jesus did brought glory to God (Luke 7:16a). We cannot earn, we can only accept, God's gift of life, and praise Him for this as we use our new and changed lives to do His will and honour Him in every way (Galatians 1:11-14 Psalm 146)

When people look at you do they recognise that God has changed you? Discuss

Are you, like Paul, a zealous instrument of God in building the church? Discuss

Being chosen for a specific task in the faith community brings responsibilities, not pride or selfishness (Galatians 1:16b)

What is the role of church leaders (eg society stewards) in the faith community? Discuss

In this week's reading, Luke tells us that Jesus and His followers were on the way to town when they encountered a funeral procession on the way to the burial ground – grief and despair met joy in blessings received.

Spiritually each of us is in one of these two crowds (Hebrews 12:22 + 13:15-16 Ephesians 2:1-10)

In which crowd are you? Discuss

Jesus always gives help when we need it most (Hebrews 4:14-16 1 Kings 17:8-16)

What has been your experience of the help Jesus gives when you have been in need / despair? Discuss

Jesus felt the pain that sin and death have brought into this world and He did something about it (Psalm 146:7-9). He confronted death and spoke the words that gave life (Luke 7:14 John 5:21).

What are you doing about the pain / need all round you?

In Closing

The response of the people to Jesus' healing was to glorify God and identify Jesus as the Prophet they [the Jews] were waiting for (Luke 7:16 Deuteronomy 18:15 Acts 3:22-23 John 1:21).

Who is Jesus to you?

PRAYER

Provident God,
whose love enfolds the needy and comforts those who mourn,
give us the strength through Jesus Christ to be instruments of
your compassion to those who are wounded by life.

Amen