

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Wk/beg 25 January 2015. Bible passages: Mark 10:35-45; Phil 2:1-11

A Life Worth Living - (3) New Attitude

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| Welcome/ icebreaker | What do you understand by our lives being 'the 5 th gospel' – the one non-Christians actually 'read'? What 'gospel' would people 'get' from your life? |
| Worship | <i>Suggestions for worship: 54 Brother let me be your servant, 120 From heaven you came, 165 He is Lord, 390 Meekness and majesty, 544 There is a redeemer, 1460 Name above all names, 1661 You chose the cross. Or 633 You laid aside your majesty, which begins:</i> "You laid aside your majesty/ Gave up everything for me, Suffered at the hands of those You had created. You took all my guilt and shame/ When You died and rose again; Now today You reign, in heaven and earth exalted. I really want to worship you, my Lord..." - Perhaps use these words to focus a time of prayer and worship. |
| Word (refs.↓) | NB Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab). For further study, why not watch Nicky Gumbel's talk on the Philippians passage as part of the 'Life worth Living' Alpha follow-up course – available online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_HSrj_uUcw (or on video from the office) |
| Mark 10:35-45 | How would James and John have reacted to Jesus' words in v.45? How did Jesus put into practice what he taught here, as he moved towards Jerusalem? Is it wrong to hope for rewards for being a disciple? |
| Phil 2:1-2 | † List the motives Paul gives in v.1 for being united as God's people. How is this unity related to the effectiveness of our witness? † Reading between the lines of vv.1-4, do you there was a problem in this area in the church in Philippi? (compare ch. 4 vv.2-3). How about us? |
| Phil 2:3-4 | Paul lists three wrong attitudes which hinder our unity as believers: 1) Selfish ambition (v.3a) 2) Self-importance (v.3b) – 'vain conceit' (NIV) 3) Self-centredness (v.4) – own interests Consider: - What's wrong with being ambitious for self? - What does 'consider others better than yourselves' mean in practice? - What is at the centre of our thinking, acting, praying? What should be? |
| Phil 2:5-11 | Jesus' life demonstrates the right attitude we should have towards others: being willing to give up any claim to: - 1) status – becoming a servant 2) self-reliance – being dependent on others 3) invulnerability – being willing to suffer How can we adopt the same attitudes? What reward can we hope for? |
| Prayer and Witness | Pray ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ forgiveness for any times when you have hurt someone by considering yourself better than them ❖ for grace to look to the interests of others - and opportunities to show it ❖ for grace to look to the interests of other groups and churches ❖ for grace as a church – not to be served, but to find joy in serving others |
| Prayer and Witness | Reminder: Church Family Together, Thursday 5 February in church 7.30-9.30pm. Coffee & cake – worship – encouragement. |