

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. Oct 2nd 2005

Whose Life is it anyway?

Called to a simple lifestyle.

Matthew 6 : 19-34. Acts .17.16-34. Phil 2



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

We are called to a simple lifestyle. Jesus demonstrated this. Phil 2 : He did not grasp status he was due, he gave of himself completely; He humbled himself to serve not rule; he submitted to the Father's word not His own way. He listened and obeyed we are called to have the same character, Christ in us. We see status and ruling as important in our society. It is very easy to worship the created not the creator. (Acts 17)

Jesus taught simplicity: Matt 6 ff. What is treasure to us is always where our heart will be fixed. What is our treasure? Not of this world. The earth belongs to God not to us. All wealth belongs to God not to us. We are stewards of both by His permission. Wealth bring difficulty. We need to listen to God and hear his voice. The result of fixing our hearts in the World is anxiety. We have no need to be anxious; God can supply all our need. When we worship the creator then we find we can live and even have our being (Acts 17).

Jesus honours our simplicity: Matt 6. When we pursue God's way: the kingdom of God, then all these things will be given to us.. All **your** needs will be supplied. Wealth is neither good nor evil, but it poses a problem. We need to have pure hearts to act responsibly with our wealth. God can use wealth in amazing ways when we are submitted to him not to the wealth. We are to seek the Kingdom whether we are rich or poor.

We are to find contentment in God's strength supplying our every need.

Freed from anxiety, simplicity looks like this:

What we have is received as a gift
What we have is to be cared for by God
What we have is available to others



Witness: Questions to discuss

1. Psalm 62:10: How do you understand this verse ?
2. What does it mean to seek the kingdom of God? How does anxiety get in the way of this call for you?
3. What examples of you have of God's faithfulness in provision for you? In financial crisis how have you experienced Gods' strength?
4. How has wealth benefited your spiritual growth? How has having less benefited your spiritual growth?
5. How does practicing a discipline (which simplicity is) be of benefit to a Christian (Matt 6).
- 6 .St. Paul says he 'learn to be content in all circumstances'. What do you think that may mean in working out a simple lifestyle?
7. What complicates simplicity for Christians in Dorking, including you?