

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 5 November

sunnysidechurch

Being Salt and Light in our Priorities

Bible passages: Matthew 6.19-34; 1 Peter 1.3-9

Introduction

- We are living in an anxious age
- Worry is not only pointless but damaging
- Trust in God is the antidote to worry and will galvanise us rather than paralyse us as worry does

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness

- God's kingdom is where people are living according to his values and will
- We are to make desire for God's kingdom to spread our priority and it begins with his priorities in our hearts and lives

1. Seek God's kingdom: look for it – perspective

- God is at work in his world – need to learn to recognise it
- Seeing God at work will give us perspective that helps us to grow as his followers, even in tough times

2. Seek God's kingdom: work for it - priorities

- If we make God's kingdom our prime concern we will be able to be salt and light in his world
- It will make us active in living out his priorities in our lives

Conclusion

- What is our focus in life: gathering earthly treasure or seeking to become more like Jesus and serve God?
- If we prioritise God's kingdom, our cares and concerns will fall into their proper place

Some questions for discussion

1. In what ways might this be described as 'an anxious age' and why?
2. Read Matthew 6.19-34. What do you notice?
3. How might trust be the antidote to worry?
4. Why is it true that can't we serve two masters (6.24)?
5. In what ways does seeking God's kingdom give us a perspective that helps us? Read 1 Peter.1-3-9. What does this add to your understanding?
6. Where have you seen God at work in your life or signs of his kingdom recently?
7. In what ways might seeking God's kingdom affect our priorities in our daily lives?
8. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6.33)

Why not spend some time praying for those who are anxious and ask God to show how he might want to change your priorities so that you put his kingdom first in more areas of your life?

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