

SERMON NOTES Sunday 19 November

sunnysidechurch

The Beatitudes

Being Salt and Light in our Attitudes

Bible passages: Matthew 7:1-12; John 15:9-17

Introduction

- Beatitudes illustrate how God blesses those with a positive “attitude to being”
- “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference” [Winston Churchill]
- “...be transformed by the renewing of your mind” [Rom. 12:2]

Christian Attitude

- Prayerful
- 2 Peter 1:5-7
 - A pinch of FAITH + seasoning of VIRTUE, KNOWLEDGE, SELF-CONTROL, STEADFASTNESS, GODLINESS, BROTHERLY AFFECTION, heated by HOLY SPIRIT and garnished with LOVE
- Faith and Love encompass a new way of being.

New attitude to our relationships

- **Outward to others**
 - Our reaction to other's behaviour
 - Easy to judge even if not express it.
 - God sees!
 - Look to our own faults first.
 - Use situation to challenge own response and behaviour.
 - Test what you do, lest others judge you! “Call yourself a Christian...”
- Is it ever right to judge? What circumstances might justify that?
- Be prepared to listen to another who can see you stumble and fall.

- **Upward to God**

- Practice that attitude of prayer.
- Keep on... asking, seeking, finding.
- Not once, but continually.
- Not promise of blank cheque for there are conditions.
 - Know you are forgiven
 - Hold to that seed of faith, however small
 - Discover God's will in the circumstance
 - Believe in God's good provision [Matt. 7:11]
 - Have confidence God will answer,.. in his time and his space.

- **Inward within ourselves**

- Be honest about your relationships with God and with others.
- Meditate on where these are fractured and need to be mended.
- Examine those circumstances which cause you pain and distress.
 - Where can you find solace, strength and healing?
- What “attitude of being” is God challenging you to either reinforce or perhaps restrain?

- **Interdependence of Relationships**

- The Golden Rule and the Ethic of Reciprocity
 - Practical application of the command to love one another.
 - How would its genuine application transform our world?
 - Demonstrate an attitude of grace and gratitude.

Conclusion

Loving one another is indeed the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets. Living by the Golden Rule and obeying Jesus' command to love each other is the pinnacle of his calling on us.

Revd Paul Boddam-Whetham