

Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Christ as King – Fulfilment Matthew 25:31-46 by Norman Bonnett w/c Sunday 22nd November 2020

As always I recommend that you read the passage through a few times before we begin. It is a well read and often preached on section of scripture which you will probably be familiar with.

It is in essence about the Kingship of Jesus in the lives of His followers -you and me. It is not a unique concept and both the Old and New Testaments present the same teaching in different ways. The subject is a regular topic in discussion groups: “How can we adequately serve the Master?”, “How much of our lives do we spend in that service?” and “Is there room in our lives for other passions/enthusiasms? The answer of course to the last question is an emphatic “Yes” and mine are music, drama and ball games, what are yours? They may include reading, running, films, caring for children or sick relatives – you can I’m sure add to the list. **Spend some time thinking about the first two questions and also consider what your other passions contribute to your service.**

But what can we learn from this reading? Our motives for the things we do in His service are emphasised in this passage, particularly when you think back to Matthew 23:23 (woe to you... for tithing herbs but neglecting justice and mercy). “It’s not just what you do it’s also the reason why you do it”. **How do you react to this statement?**

Jesus is explaining the necessity of helping others with the simple, uncomplicated (usually) things of life - giving someone a meal, a drink, caring for the sick, providing friendship etc. It must be unselfish, not expecting reward or recognition, usually unpretentious and not particularly remarkable.

Only recently I read that Bill Gates, a very wealthy man with a fortune estimated at \$100 billion had given \$40 million to help with the Covid-19 vaccine distribution in poor countries. We are of course not in that category of wealth but we need to see that whatever we can give or do is under the Kingship of Christ and is therefore acceptable to Him.

I was quite young when I heard a true story about an army officer who had the words “Do it Now!” pinned to the front of his desk. What wonderful advice and particularly useful when considering the message from this passage – how easy it is to hesitate, hold back and let the opportunity pass.

Jesus’ life was filled with activity and He tells us, even from a young age, that He must be about His Father’s business (Luke 2:49), not dominated by LIVING for self but by GIVING to others. Jesus sets us the example of serving others rather than ourselves (Matthew 20:28). **Spend some time thinking about what that means to you?**

The passage is about the Kingship of Jesus in our lives and about how his coming again in power and glory is the complete fulfilment. Read again verses 34, 35 and 36 of our passage and remind yourself that you are called to full and free surrender to His service, to be His child, an heir to an inheritance (the kingdom of God prepared for you), to follow in His Way and to rejoice in what His life of sacrifice at Calvary has given us.

His example is perfect, so let us “run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus” (Hebrews 12:2).

God bless you all. In Him, Norman