

## House Group Resource & Questions for Discussion, January 2010

**Our over-arching themes for sermons in the first half of 2010 will pick up on those from the Parish Weekend: Full Surrender ; Total Transformation & Fresh Anointing**

As 2010 begins we explore Full Surrender to God in the context of the emerging Trinity Project Vision

### **Theme 1 VISION - Matthew 9: 35-10:10 & Acts 2: 42-47**

- Recognition of encouragements, but a reality check re HT & T
- **Knowing the Compassion of Jesus**
- **Obedying our Commission from Jesus**
- **Building a Community with Jesus**
- Our longing for more of God at work finds expression in the 6 or 7 elements of the Trinity Project Vision (for which see TP leaflets)

### **First Comes Full Surrender To God's Vision and Larger Perspective (rather than our own)**

#### **Possible Questions for Reflection**

- a) How do you imagine Jesus feels about the masses of Nailsea and their indifference to his love and sacrifice as a good shepherd?
- b) Do you believe Jesus has a commission for you/us his followers here in Nailsea? If so, how do you understand it?
- c) Which aspects of the Acts 2 Church inspire you? (Elements include: Devotion to God; the Awesome presence of God; Sharing, generosity & sacrifice; Intimate fellowship & sharing of lives; Fruitful impact upon others around them)
- d) Have you ever known the joy of leading a friend to Christ or seeing it happen? Describe to one another how you felt. Do you long to see the same happen again for others?
- e) Each choose one of the elements of the emerging Vision for the Trinity Project that most excites and engages you. Describe to one another how you feel and why?
- f) What would you give to see this element of the vision realised or one of your own friends or family come to Christ?

Perhaps take the opportunity to complete the Prayer Covenant Cards together and pray for those you have named or pray that the Lord would stir in us a deeper level of love and compassion than we have ever known.

### **Theme 2 STEWARDSHIP Malachi 3: 6-12 & 1 Chr 29: 1-9**

- **First in Honouring God with our Full Tithe** What practical change, what step up will this involve for us on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan?
- **Second: now is a time for Capital Investment in God's Local Kingdom Work.** Note David's detailed passion and provision for the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms (1 Chr 28: 12). What resources has the Lord entrusted to us that he now wants us to invest elsewhere on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan– willingly, sacrificially, because we live the dream and share the vision?

### **Second Comes Full Surrender & Stewardship of all our Resources in His Service**

#### **Possible Questions for Reflection**

- a) What have you learnt or are you learning about trusting God with all the wealth he gives us and the faith required to hand over a proportion?
- b) Discuss the suggested key principles with regard to tithing (**First** tenth; and **Best**; of **All** we earn or acquire (are given, receive) [n. b. if it is within our control]; **Giving willingly; Over to God** (surrendering control) via his local priestly representatives, hence now the Church (the priesthood of all believers). Where do you stand with regard to each one (honestly!). Do you wrestle with any of the principles in particular?
- c) Are you personally challenged to take any action this year in response to this teaching & Mal 3?

- d) How does your vision for and devotion to the local Church compare with David's?
- e) Do you find his willingness to invest capital in something that he will never see (1 Chr 28: 3 & 12) surprising? Logical? Absurd? Inspiring?
- f) What capital resources and treasures do you have that the Lord may be asking you to release for his Kingdom work?

'For King David settled in to his own home and nearing the end of his life there was no higher priority than building the House of God. He recognised that God deserves nothing but our very best, willingly given to enable the presence of God to be tangibly expressed and recognised by all in the local community and to resource God's expanding Kingdom work.'

### **Theme 3 FAITH 1 Chr 28: 1-12 & Matt 14: 22-36**

- **Faith like Hope involves a Confidence in things unseen** a stepping into a dream, a vision because God asks us to. The scale of the task may make it impossible, without God, and confidence in him. Note in v12 David's concern for the surrounding rooms as much as the worship space itself. At the same time he is aware that wholehearted devotion to God is the crucial foundation for such a work and this he urges upon Solomon (verse 9).
- **For Peter this faith involved doing the impossible.** Imagine what it felt like to Peter (and the others disciples who would not even have a go!). Is this what every step of faith feels like? Peter steps out because Jesus asks him to. He alone knows what it felt like even for a few steps to walk on water, daring something extreme for God simply out of obedience.

**Third Comes Surrender to a Step of Frightening Faith, simply because Jesus asks.**

#### **Possible Questions for Reflection**

- a) How do you imagine it felt to venture out onto water (stormy water!)? Are there occasions when you have felt like this when you stepped out in faith? Describe the experience to one another.
- b) How do you feel about the Trinity Project and the financial Challenge we face on 31<sup>st</sup> January?
- c) Do you sense God calling you (or us) at the moment to step out in a new adventure of faith (financial sacrifice, a new ministry)?

Pray for one another and the Church: for vision, faith & obedience to Jesus' call.

'If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat.....'

### **Theme 4 SURRENDER**

#### **1 Chr 29: 10-20 & Romans 12: 1- 8**

- **A Practical Expression of Faith & Generosity is Described**
  - First David as Leader, then the People's leaders and finally the People themselves make Personal Sacrifices & Give Willingly and Generously to God (vv 1-6)
  - These all come from God (vv10 – 11) and He is greatly honoured in the giving (vv11-16)
- **Yet Much more than Money & Treasures at stake. (vv 17-18)** Willing and generous giving reveals hearts open to God and free to serve him wholeheartedly. God tests us (v 17) so we may know where our hearts and treasure truly are. The key is our devotion to God (v 18)
- **Spiritual Worship:** Romans 12 describes this spiritual sacrifice in response to the sacrificial love of God shown to us in Jesus. We bring our financial offerings today, but God is more interested in our hearts, lives and willingness to exercise the gifts that he has given us in the service of his Kingdom.

**Finally a Full Surrender in the Practical Worship of our whole lives is required today.**

#### **Possible Questions for Reflection**

- a) Consider 1 Chr 29 and pray for a similarly generous response in Ht & T on 31<sup>st</sup> January
- b) Do any members of the group sense a call to present themselves in some new way as a living sacrifice? To what ministry locally, old or new? Pray for them
- c) Do you know what yours gifts are? Are you using them diligently and fully in His service? Encourage one another in the value and potential of each others god -given gifts.

**Prepare a financial gift for 31<sup>st</sup>, but also surrender yourself fully to God's new vision for HT& T.**