



Sermon Notes

Term –

Series – Living from the overflow and being the gospel

Gathering & Date – 10am 8th July 2018

Title –

Preacher – Andrew Stansbury

Reading – James 3.9-18

Main message of this talk in one sentence – As James says – salt and spring water can't come from the same source. Sharing the Gospel with others is all about being transparent about the truths and realities of our day to day walk with Jesus.

Main points –

The overflow of our faith and relationship with Jesus is His fruit (John 15). He wants to reveal Himself to others through us being transparent and honest about who we are and what is happening in our faith. Mission is life – it is just us being consistently us wherever we are with whoever we are with, following the guidance and wisdom of the Spirit.

2 main questions coming out of the talk.

1. If in being transparent and open about our lives with those around us we don't find our faith coming into conversation, is it because God actually isn't at the heart of all the aspects of our lives? Does our life orientate around what He is doing and saying or not? If it does then when people ask us how we are and how we've been etc, then being honest with them will involve sharing, appropriately and listening to the wisdom of the Spirit, our God-journey with them.
2. We also often stop us sharing aspects of our faith with those around us thinking we will put them off, or that it is a bit 'heavy' for them. What if we decided to just be transparent? What if we just entrusted the moment to God and decided to just share truthfully about our lives, accurately communicating God's place in it and our walk with Him – not trying to present a perfect picture, but gently sharing the reality of the challenges, questions, victories, breakthroughs and all else of our faith with people trusting that the Holy Spirit will give us the words to say and breathe through them.

For further thought and prayer –

Spend some time reflecting and reading over a couple of times the passage from James and also Matthew 5 below:

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

¹³ *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

JAMES 3.9-18

He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

MATTHEW 5.3-11

Questions:

1. Read the above 2 passages a number of times asking the Holy Spirit to get your attention through it – make notes as you read, underline and take notes. Then share with your group – what did God get your attention about?
2. Focussing especially on the James passage – what are your thoughts about the source and outflow he talks about (fresh and salt water can't come from the same spring)?
3. How easy do you find it to be transparent with those around you about the reality of what is important to you in life?
4. Is God gently asking you questions as to whether your ongoing connection to Him is really what your life is built around?
5. Spend some time praying for each other – focus on praying for each others' passion for God in every part of their lives and also for them to be transparent with those around them, whoever it may be.