



Sermon Notes

Term – Summer Term

Series – Worship

Gathering & Date – The 10 on 2nd June 2019

Title – Worship Together

Preacher –Neil Shepherd/Matt Lowe

Reading – Hebrews 12:1-3 & 14-29

Main message of this talk in one sentence: Let us...throw of everything that hinders....fix our eyes on Jesus...be thankful

Main points –

The gathering on Sunday was an all-age gathering which gave space for sung worship and communion. Matt Lowe shared his recent story of the journey he has been on with God. Matt shared four stories:

1. Attending a freedom in Christ course that helped him understand the way God had made him (original design) and what stops him from being all that God has made him (Strongholds). The specific word that Matt shared was about living life as 'fine' and he was reminded that, with God, there is always more.
2. Matt and Sian started marriage coaching as they wanted more than just a 'fine' marriage and are seeking to work towards a marriage that is not 'hindered or entangled'.
3. Matt attended a prayer evening at a friend's house where someone prayed for him and spoke the same words over him that had been spoken to him at the freedom-in-Christ course – this was a real encouragement as God speaking in a number of different ways at different times
4. Matt was watching the clip (attached separately) from the ending of the Barcelona /Liverpool match when Liverpool won 4-0. He was struck by the Liverpool fan's 'worship' of their team. How could they worship their team with more passion and physical engagement than Matt, who knows a God who has done so much more for him?
"So when the Sunday after this game (Sunday 12th May) came around and I was crying from the opening hymn, I knew that I was in trouble! (My sin, Oh the bliss of this glorious thought: My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord oh my soul!) And then came Paul's talk, with a bold invitation to do something different. To dare to dance, or move a hand, or perish the thought put an arm round the shoulders of the people, my brother, my sister, my wife, sitting next to me. I was so annoyed! God had been setting me up all week! What if Liverpool hadn't won?!!"

Neil summarised these four stories with a couple of readings from Hebrews 12. First from Hebrews 12:1-3 and then from Hebrews 12:28-29. Our response to God comes from the knowledge that he has established a kingdom that cannot be shaken and therefore we can only be thankful to God which is the start of our journey with worship.

For further thought and prayer –

Connect

1. What are we thankful to God for from this last week? Does anyone have a story of God at work in their lives?
2. Spend some time in sung worship together using some simple worship songs

Grow

3. Read the passages from Hebrews 12 together. What stands out to you as you read the passage?
4. What questions does it raise for you about God?
5. What questions does it raise for you about you?
6. There are three 'let us' statements
 - a. Let us throw off everything that hinders..
 - b. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.....
 - c. Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably...Which of these statements gets your attention the most for you personally? Why?
7. How do you respond, personally, to the challenges the three 'let us' statements create for us?

Influence

8. Pray for three people, known to you, who need to know the freedom that comes from 'fixing our eyes on Jesus'
9. Pray for Christ Church and that we would be a church that is free from those things that cause us to be hindered and entangled.