

men@trinity

Newsletter

April 2007

Future events

Pat's Garage 20th April

Church working party 21st April

Have an Open Mind

From the online daily devotional we find the following to think about;

“Why don't more intelligent thinking people like you embrace the faith of the Bible and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world? I was taught that a rational person, when confronted with good evidence, would choose Christ. But this does not seem to be the case. Why?

The Bible tells us very clearly. The apostle Paul describes unbelievers as those who walk "in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding" (Ephesians 4:17-18). In other words, the Bible says that the thinking of unbelievers is darkened! When they are presented the evidence which shows that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, they reject that evidence. To their way of thinking, the evidence proves nothing! And so, after all the arguments are presented, the unbeliever will not accept Christ. As the apostle Paul says, "the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Now the Lord Jesus understood the problem. After Christ spent three years with His disciples, they still did not understand the Old Testament Scriptures which had been written about Him. So after the resurrection, Christ met with the disciples. He reminded them, "I spoke to you while I was with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44). Because Jesus knew that the disciples did not understand, He did a wonderful thing. "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45). Yes, the problem was an inability to think properly. And so Jesus opened their minds!

Perhaps you have the same problem. Jesus needs to open your mind.”

A Man's Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines

By Pat Morley

Spiritual disciplines (or habits) are the means by which we regularly deepen our relationship with Christ. One of the easiest mistakes with the spiritual disciplines is to confuse the means and the ends. The disciplines are the “means,” our relationship with Jesus is the “end.”

It's important to remind ourselves that disciplines don't earn us any kind of merit whatsoever. The disciplines are not behaviors we perform to make God happy or avoid his wrath. Instead, disciplines are the regular practices of men gripped by deep and humble gratitude for the remarkable privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord, Savior, Counselor, and Friend.

Almost any Christian virtue or duty can be turned into a discipline. For my new book, *A Man's Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines* (2007, Chicago: Moody Publishers) I selected 12 disciplines that seemed right for our moment in time: *creation, the Bible, prayer, worship, the Sabbath, fellowship, counsel, fasting, spiritual warfare, stewardship, service, and evangelism*. Here is a brief overview of some.

A Man and Creation

Nothing fills me with contemplation of God more than a blazing sunrise, a mama duck followed by eight little ducklings paddling with all their might to keep up, or a rugged mountain that soars into the sky. How about you? We have been given the visible creation to reveal the deity of the invisible God. Theologians call creation God's *general revelation*. Nature “reveals” a “general” knowledge about God.

A Man and the Bible

I know of no man whose life has been significantly changed apart from the regular study of God's Word. Like training for a golf swing, if you want to “play well” at Christianity, you have to go into training. The Bible is the starting point for all spiritual disciplines, for all glorifying of God, for all communion with Christ, and for all growth and sanctification.



If you have any articles you would like to contribute to men@trinity newsletter, please email to men@trinitymethodist.org.uk, or drop into pigeon hole B for the attention of Mike Bartrop.

Café Night 2nd of March

This was the start of something new those who came along found to be useful and encouraging.

This theme was “I will make you fishers of Men” and the evening centred around, Luke 5 vs. 1- 11.

To begin with two questions

- a) How would you apply what Jesus said in Luke 5?
- b) How would you preach the gospel out side church?
 - 1) Luke 5 was the turning point of Jesus’ ministry as he stepped out of his comfort zone
 - 2) You have to get it right, too hard or too soft and it will be rejected.
 - 3) There is an ultimate level where the conversation will drift naturally into things relating to God.
 - 4) People wanted to hear what Jesus had to say.
 - 5) Jesus used a boat to preach the word from, what can we use to take the message out to the people?
 - 6) Next time you go out, look for something that will help you share something about God with them.
 - 7) Are there area’s into which we won’t go? and are we ready to step into the unknown?
 - 8) It may be hard to talk about Jesus but people do pray to God
 - 9) They had faith in him and we are called to go out, so have faith in Jesus.
 - 10) The catch was so great they needed help.
 - 11) We are in partnership with Jesus and with each other.
 - 12) Jesus never sent people out on their own and they left everything to follow him.

Thanks Geoff for your thoughts and for sharing them with us



FROM THE POTTING SHED

Greetings!

Ahh! April is here at last and the evenings are getting longer and the days are getting warmer.

There's a lot to do now as everything is really getting into gear and also the public gardens are open, so there are plenty of places to go for inspiration.

Plants of Interest

There is colour and interest in all areas of the garden this month. In the woodland garden ferns are emerging, bulbs such as spring snowflake, daffodils and narcissi are in bloom. Woodland floor plants such as celandine, wood anemones, primroses, Violets and Hellebores continue to charm; and shrubs such as Camellias, Pieris and Rhododendrons are at their best. In the borders the air is filled with the scent of Skimmias and Hyacinths; and Tulips are flowering. Magnolias look stunning against a clear blue sky and Forsythia continue to flower. In the alpine garden there are blooms on pasque flowers, dwarf primulas and Erodium; and Aubrietias cascade down. Bulbs and primulas and Viola give colour to containers, so everywhere looks great. What are you waiting for – get out there!

God bless and happy gardening.

