

Notes for the word section week beginning Sunday 1st March

Breaking Bread

Read: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Summary:

With our desire to see the church restored we have spent lots of time and energy considering Acts 2:42. We believe in modern day apostles and listen to their teaching; we are committed to deeper community and fellowship and desire to give ourselves in passionate prayer... But what about the breaking of bread?

The Missing Ingredient

Throughout church history people have focused on who breaks bread, what words they say, what bread they use, what name they call it... yet the really the missing ingredient is a lack of care and compassion.

The acceptable things of society can slip into the church... when in the 'in crowd' we do not realise it, but those in the fringe are fully aware.

It is not really the Lords supper when those who Jesus would welcome and value are made to feel second class.

The solution is centred in Jesus

He took bread He gave thanks He broke it He said
Remember Him Proclaim Him His return... It is all about HIM

By not looking out for the frail, the weak, the poor, the depressed, the immigrant, those who feel they have the least to offer and the least acceptable we are not just neglecting people but sinning against the body and blood of Jesus.

Two Forms of Challenge

Subtle – Jesus or Judas? Even in the death of Jesus, Judas was thinking about what he can get (the 30 pieces of silver) and not on what he can give

Scary – Paul writes and warns about judgement. Though God's mercy abounds He still feels hurt and angry by sin. If we realised how sin dishonours the Father and mocks the death of Christ, we would sort it out quicker.

It is the Lords supper when we meet with HIM!

Application:

1. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
2. How do you show respect to people?
3. How do you make people feel welcomed and valued at church?
4. Describe what you think it must feel like to be on the fringe.
5. Who do you think is on the fringe locally? How can the church reach out to them?
6. Take some time in silence to let God challenge you on the sin you have committed this week, and then repent.