

## Word Section

Emmanuel spoke of different kinds of people...

1. People whose hopes are shattered. Asking 'does God know me?' Someone like the paralysed man in John 5- waiting for 38 years for healing. Its easy to say that I am in the church yet still feel alone and isolated. Solomon had all the wealth in the world yet said that it was all meaningless. We can often feel full of complaints and hopeless. However, Jesus is present and is looking for those that are in need. Jesus said to the paralysed man 'rise up' and he was healed. You don't need to go elsewhere; you just need Jesus. Pray- Lord I need you. Like with the story of Lazarus... something will happen when Jesus comes. Put your hope in Jesus.
2. People have everything they need under the sun but they have no testimony of what God has done today. They are satisfied with past experiences. Today people think they are wise but on the inside are empty. We need to have more concern of the Lord than we do of ourselves.
3. People who are hungry for God but still living with sin. This is better than someone who is in sin but not hungry for God. Zaccheus was such a man- he was a corrupt tax collector yet was intrigued by Jesus and went looking for him. He used his creativity to get a view of Jesus by climbing a tree. When he was Jesus his sin was exposed and he repented. When we meet with Jesus we can be changed. When Joseph the carpenter was close to God the spirit was able to speak to him. As we draw close to Jesus we too can hear from him for our lives.

Questions...

1. Who do you most relate to?
2. When have you felt isolated, even as a Christian?
3. What encounters with Jesus have transformed your life?
4. Are you living off past experiences? How is your experience of God today?
5. Zaccheus climbed a tree to see Jesus; what extremes have you gone to to meet with Jesus?
6. What is God saying to you this week?