



NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Connecting people with God
within authentic community
where all are welcome.*

Word Notes: Sunday 10th March 2019

Anne Beaumont – Transforming Lives for Good

Key Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 139:13-16

Israel's first king, Saul, is a worldly success but is not following the Lord. The Lord directs Samuel to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem to anoint a new king, but it's not the fine strapping young men he finds there whom the Lord chooses but the young lad, out in the fields tending sheep. David is good looking, yes, but it's in his heart that the Lord sees the king he will be. David writes of the Lord's deep knowledge and care for him in Psalm 139.

Now let's widen that out – can this be said of everyone? Is anyone less known, less loved by the Lord than any other? Does the Lord not see the deep potential in all and is he not desirous that each achieve their full "in Christ" potential? Now look around you. In 2019 Great Britain how many young people are denied the opportunity to fulfil that potential through poverty, food poverty, school exclusion, lack of good role models and mentoring? The response of the church of Jesus has been to come in the opposite spirit to that of the world. Without judgement or partiality, ministries such as Christians Against Poverty, the Trussell Trust and Transforming Lives for Good have reached out to fill the gaps left behind by governments and weakened social services to meet needs directly because it's the Jesus thing to do.

Anne shared some troubling statistics on school exclusions: 430,000 each year, 73,000 of primary school age, 9,200 under 7; and food insecurity affecting 1 in 5 children. Christians Against Poverty quote deeply worrying statistics of hardship, depression and contemplated suicide by those on Universal Credit. Food Banks are growing in number and helping ever increasing numbers of people. This is the background against which the Lord is calling us to *"put out into deeper water and spread your nets"* – so let's get rowing.

Study & Application

Discuss the questions in the second paragraph above: *"Is anyone less known, less loved by the Lord than any other? Does the Lord not see the deep potential in all and is he not desirous that each achieve their full "in Christ" potential?"* (By that I mean not just worldly fulfilment but fulfilment in God through Jesus).

What do you see as the role of the church in helping people achieve their "in Christ potential"? Is it confined to preaching and teaching or is there a more practical approach? Are they in conflict or in harmony - look to Jesus' example to answer this.

What is your role - how does that fit with a life given over to following Jesus? Are there any specific areas, roles or ministries you are called to?

Prayer

Use this time of prayer and fasting to seek the Lord for your role in reaching out with compassion to meet practical needs. Then make a plan to do what he says.