

Word notes Sunday 13/3/2011 Simon Matthews
How to live beyond recession

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Psalm 20: 1-7

With economic problems continuing to cause difficulty for many in our communities including some in our churches it is good to look to God's Word for guidance on how to live in such times. There is a wide range of teachings on the area of finances and blessing in the Christian body with some highly opposed extremes. Simon started from Psalm 20 and listed 8 ways we can live in God's blessing even in such times.

1. Trust in the Lord – he is Jehovah our provider. Ps 20:7, Ps 37:4
2. Have a right attitude – don't be negative, be positive. Refuse to be a victim. Phil 4:11
3. Live gratefully – give thanks for what you have. Phil 4:12
4. Live a giving life – tithes and offerings are a start, a giving spirit affects your whole life.
5. Use wisely what you do have. Budget, do a CAP Money course.
6. Be creative – use all your gifts and find new ones. The world has never been a better place to try something new.
7. Be a hard worker, God blesses hard work. If you are out of work you still have 2 jobs: to seek a new job diligently and to give your time to voluntary work/helping others.
8. Reject despair. "Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS, and again I say rejoice.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

What is your understanding of Jesus' words in John 10:10 "I have come so that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."? How does that sit with you when times are tough, especially financially?

I know that in the past when finances were tight I've been tempted to cut back on my giving. What issues, temptations, actions might there be in your life that show if you're really trusting the Lord or trying to work it out yourself?

What is the right balance between "waiting for God to come through on his promise" and "getting on with helping yourself"? What does the Word say?

Read Phil 4:11 & 12. Does this describe your own experience? Have you only known times of need or times of plenty and are you content or do you crave after material things, even in just a small way, be it a bigger house, the latest phone or something else?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Leaders and Cell Leaders will be discussing outreach plans for Easter. What would the Cell like to do?

Includes the Easter Day Guest Service and publicising, leafleting, prayer walking etc for it, The Fun Day on Monday May 2nd – Cells will be asked to organise one or two activities or stalls.

Discuss so your Cell Leaders can come to the meeting on Thursday with ideas.