

Word Notes Sunday 07/05/17
Clare Reed – Pop(ular) Idols: Success

Summary *(read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>)*

Key Text: 2 Kings 5:1-17

Self-esteem, and the belief that we can succeed are important values in the world today, but are they too important to us? In the above passage, we meet Naaman, a man who is highly esteemed and has known great success. But his esteem and success might be tragically lost due to leprosy. He has placed such importance on his esteem and success that he is offended when he is received by Elisha's messenger instead of the great prophet himself, and nearly refuses the opportunity for healing. Even after his servants have brought him to his senses, he still desires to cling on to some esteem by paying back with generous gifts. However, the only response he is allowed to make is one of worship (the customary belief in those days was that you could only worship a God on the soil of his land, hence the request to take soil home with him).

We too will find our esteem and/or success are easily lost, and that we are utterly dependent upon God for our true success – being seated in the heavenly realms with Christ. We can never pay God back for what Jesus has done for us. The only response we can make is one of worship.

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

Clare opened the sermon on Sunday with a popular “motivational” song, including the words “You can be the greatest, you can be the best”. Where do you see this kind of motivation in action in the world today?

Why do you think Naaman took gifts with him when he went to see the King of Israel?

Not only did Naaman react inappropriately to Elisha's messenger, but the King of Israel too reacted inappropriately to Naaman's request (v7). Can you relate to how and why these men reacted in the ways they did?

Why do you think Naaman was eager to “pay” Elisha for his healing with a gift? (v15)

On Sunday we shared a number of verses reminding us of where we find our true esteem or success: in Christ. As a group, share some verses that encourage you personally of the status and success you have in Jesus, and respond to them in worship.

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

The Gospel can be a particularly challenge message for those who have high esteem and consider themselves very successful. Why do you think this is, and how can we help such people understand their need for God?