

Word notes Sunday 25/9/2011 Roy Wheeler
Living in Difficult Times

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

Key Text: Luke 21:9-28

When his disciples asked him about the end times Jesus didn't give them a date but a series of signs many of which we can see happening around us. When and how isn't our concern, instead we should be focussed on how to respond when these things happen – to understand the times and know what to do. Remember that Jesus didn't promise us an easy ride but did promise us a full life.

Luke goes on in this chapter (v34) to report Jesus' guidance – how to live that full life - and this is picked up in other gospel records of Jesus teaching on this subject. Roy distilled this down to 7 principles for living:

1. Be Joy-full Rom 12:12, Lk 21:28, Jn 16:33
2. Be Thank-full 1 Thess 5:18, Heb 12:28
3. Be Care-full Lk 21:34, Eph 5:15, Lk 8:14
4. Be Watch-full Lk 21:36, 1 Pet:5,8,9, Mk 14:33
5. Be Prayer-full Lk 21:36, Phil 4:4-6
6. Be Faith-full Matt 24:45-51
7. Be Spirit-full Matt 25:1-12

If we follow the Lord's advice we'll not be caught unawares, we'll know the times and be ready. We can live in a fragile world, secure in the Lord and ready to bring good news to those around us.

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

Read Luke 21:9-28 and discuss:

Do we agree that we are living in the times Jesus described? Why?

How does that make you feel?

Pick two or three of the topics above (either your choice or maybe the ones the group find the most tough). One topic at a time read the scriptures and discuss: how does this affect me, my actions, prayer life, lifestyle and my witness?

Afterwards encourage the groups to work through the other principles themselves during the coming week.

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

What would you say to a non-Christian if they ask you about how to deal with tough times in their life?

What about world events such as earthquakes, famine or drought? What about economic problems and the effect on our lives?

Do we sound convincing, religious, crazy? Or are we concerned, ready to love and help, effective? In short – do we sound like Jesus?