

# Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## The paper-version Service

***The church is meeting on paper, online and on Sunday at 9.30am in the Building***

All of our services are online [www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk](http://www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk) but this weekly sheet captures our Sunday service for those without internet.

**To Begin:** Find a Bible. If safe, perhaps light a candle. Find a comfortable place and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it as you begin or read; or even sing, the modern song from this Sunday's Service set out below.



**Opening Prayer:** Father God, we thank you that you come to us in Jesus and by your Holy Spirit offering us love, forgiveness, life, and hope. Help us receive your grace and as you invest in us, so help us to invest utterly in you. As we read this service may we know the presence of your Spirit, uniting us to your church locally and globally as we worship you. **Amen**

### **Song:**

When I stand before Your throne  
Dressed in glory not my own  
What a joy I'll sing of on that day  
No more tears or broken dreams  
Forgotten is the minor key  
Everything as it was meant to be

*And we will worship, worship  
Forever in Your presence we will sing  
We will worship, worship You  
And endless hallelujah to the King*

I will see You as You are  
Love You with unsinning heart  
And see how much You paid to bring  
me home  
Not till then, Lord, shall I know

Not till then, how much I owe  
Everything I am before Your throne

And we will worship...

No more tears, no more shame  
No more sin and sorrow ever known  
again

No more fears, no more pain  
We will see You face to face  
See You face to face

And we will worship...

**Read:** Luke 12:22-34

**What will we get?** (A summary of the talk given by Howard Wright)

We are continuing our series looking at being apprentices of Jesus.

Our reading today comes in the context of Jesus (from chapter 11) teaching the crowds. And just before this reading (:13), someone calls out: Lord fix it for me. I want my share of my parents' inheritance. In other words, give me what I deserve!

Jesus answers with the comment: *'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'* (:15)

Greed is listed as one of the most terrible sins, it destroys relationships and destroys us – it eats us alive, from the inside out consuming us with an insatiable appetite and is partnered with envy and bitterness.

In an interview on Facebook just this last week, David Attenborough said, *'Ordinary people worldwide are beginning to realise that greed does not actually lead to joy.'*

The happily ever after is not found in this life! Ultimately everything here wears out.

The rich man of Jesus' story (:16-21) is judged not for his riches but the poverty of his of his grace toward God and therefore others.

Jesus now turns to his disciples, his apprentices, and drives the point home. (Read vs. 22-23)

When someone tells us not worry, this can give us something else to worry about! But it does make a difference if the person knows what they are talking about.

Jesus knows, he understands. (Read Hebrews 4:14-16).

And he tells us to consider the natural world. (Read vs. 24-25)

Apprentices of Jesus recognise that life is more than food, clothes, possessions, pleasure, or plain happiness. Pagans run after such things and these things run out or wear out.



This life will not satisfy – it can be great, and that is a blessing, but everything except Jesus, will let us down: our health; people; and stuff.

Jesus does not object to ownership, but he is objecting to the domination that possessions have over us. Possessions and money are not evil,

but the love of money and possessions is.

I know I'm in love with possessions when they take up my time, energy and money, to enjoy with them and maintain them – leaving no time, energy space or money for service to God.



Apprentices of Jesus are Kingdom focussed: Investing in treasure in Heaven; investing in things that do not wear out. (Read vs. 32-34).

As said, the happily ever after is not found in this life! We may be privileged to get glimpses but ultimately everything here wears out. The apprentices of Jesus have been given the Kingdom now and forever!

Do we have an adequate view of the Kingdom of Heaven? (Read Revelation 21:1-5)

C.S. Lewis wrote of Heaven like technicolour compared to the old tiny black and white TVs or like holidays after a boarding school

term. Heaven is the time to really live!



(Read 1 Corinthians 9:25-27)

So, how do we invest in this Kingdom?

Firstly, do not be owned by anything other than Jesus. The Author A.W. Tozer wrote: *'As base a thing as money often is, it yet can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the hungry and clothing for the poor; it can keep a missionary actively winning lost men to the light of the gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values. Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.'*

Secondly, invest time reading the Bible and listening in prayer – as Jonathan mentioned last week.

And thirdly invest in others. (Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19)

So, what will you invest in today – Jesus invests it all in His Father for us, will we follow the master craftsman?

**Prayers:** I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)



- Pray for this day, and the coming week
- Pray for the nations, their leaders, and peoples pray for justice, mercy, peace, and hope.
- Pray for individuals, for neighbours, for family and friends
- Pray for the Church

**Last Sunday After Trinity:** Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Blessing to be declared over yourselves, COGS, the communities around us and our whole nation.** The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

**The Notices:** If you know of others who'd like to receive this, or you'd rather not receive it; or if you find yourself isolated and not able to get neighbours, friends or family to help, then ring Howard, 01420 563344.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers