

The Bigger Picture

Doing Church Differently

5th July 2020

Welcome

Welcome to the 12th
The Bigger Picture.

We hope you continue
to find it helpful

God's peace be with you,
Mike & Sharon

Word for the week

Words of wisdom from our Pastor, Mike...

So, after a 30 year wait, Liverpool Football Club have been crowned English champions again. Hundreds of fans who have been unable to watch the recent matches due to the restrictions then, ironically, broke social distancing rules to celebrate Liverpool's triumph.

There are so many recent examples of different people breaking lockdown rules in all kinds of ways. The bottom line for some is: what does it matter so long as these people don't catch the virus or pass it on? In other words, the 'end justifies the means'.

When a person says the 'end justifies the means' they are saying that if the end result is acceptable or noble, it will justify whatever measures are taken to achieve that goal. So, if your goal is to save lives, it is okay to cheat, steal, and lie to accomplish that aim. Who cares whether you exaggerate some data if it means your family will have food to eat?

What about more trivial situations? Perhaps, we feel we need to lie to protect someone's feelings or we're okay with going into debt because the goal is to buy Christmas gifts or we're late for an important meeting so we break the speed limit to get there on time.

What does God think? God is holy, just, and good. Those who follow Him are called to reflect his character. We read God's injunction in 1 Peter 1: 16, 'Be holy, because I am holy'.

The ultimate answer to the 'means' and the 'end' dilemma appears in Proverbs 3: 5,

*'Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding'.*



CONNECT

Sunday 5th July

Sermon - "[What are God's Mysteries?](#)"

A short message - "[Starbucks or Costa?](#)"

All Age Talk - "[Feeding the 5000 - Come to Jesus](#)"

Thursday 9th July

10.30am - Encounter - Bible Study on Zoom - led by Mike—"Productive Suffering".

Sunday 12th July

10.30am - Worship & Praise - a church gathering on Zoom with a short talk from Mike and worship songs from Marinella.

Church at Home—Family Worship

On the MRBC website are resources for families who want to worship together.

This week the worship is on the theme of Feeding the 5000 with prayer activities, songs and an all age talk on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/VxsnjL7koYk>

www.mrb-church.org.uk/children-and-families-on-sunday/

*Come to Jesus with whatever you
have to offer—let him do the rest*

Bible Study

Mike's thoughts on the Sermon on the Mount, this week looking at Matthew 5:5

Jesus Promises Blessings

*'Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.'*

Matthew 5:5

What was Jesus saying here... happy are the spineless? happy are the 'yes-men'?

Are we supposed to be like cringing Uriah Heap, whom Dickens tells us, always described himself as, 'your humble servant'? Moses was described as very meek yet he was anything but a weak and spineless leader, though he was reluctant to lead at first.

Robert Redford plays the part of a horse whisperer in a long Hollywood film! He gradually succeeds in taming a horse that had become wild and unpredictable. Eventually, he manages to bring the horse under control so that a girl is able

to ride on it. When Jesus spoke about the meek, he was referring to believers who have been broken like a tamed horse. He was thinking about Christians who live their lives in submission to the king of kings.



Jesus went on to say that the meek will inherit the earth. What does this mean?

Probably, Jesus was making a futuristic statement about the ultimate establishment of the kingdom of God. When the second coming takes place, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. His 'meek' followers can look forward to their inheritance!

God Speaks...

In this series we'll look at the different ways we hear from God

...through other people

"Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: ²"Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you." "
(Jonah 3:1)

In the Bible there are many examples of God speaking to the people through individuals, such as Moses, Jonah, the prophets. Sometimes it was to a nation, sometimes God had a message for a specific person.

God still speaks to us through other people today. It maybe that the sermon seems so appropriate to you that you wonder if the preacher is deliberately targeting you, or perhaps a friend says something that is just what you needed to hear, sometimes you will read something in social media or hear a word on the radio or God channel that is right for your situation – all of these examples are God using other people to speak into your life.

God will also send a message directly to you

through another person. At my previous church I had a friend called Trevor who would frequently be up at 4am walking round his lounge talking to God. He would very often text me with a word from God, specifically for me.

Sometimes the messenger doesn't know they are bringing you a message from God. When I was wondering what God would lead me to do when my job at the school came to an end, a retired minister I hardly knew, approached me one day and told me I should be doing ministry training. He didn't know he was delivering a message from God, but it spoke to me and confirmed what other people had been saying to me over the previous 18 months. I subsequently went on to do a Certificate in Children's Ministry.

When someone comes to you with a Bible verse or a word from God, you need to discern if it is from God. People can be very well meaning but they aren't always right, and sometimes get the interpretation wrong. A word from God will make sense to you and will be helpful, it will usually confirm what you are already picking up from God, or what other people are saying.

God speaks, are you listening?.


"I will pour out my Spirit on all people"

Prayer & Praise for the Week

Prayer Pointers

This week please pray for

- Sunday** Glo Stafford, Terry Rattigan, Martin Preston and others in the MRBC family who have significant health issues.
- Monday** the family of Margaret Bee, who passed away on Wednesday 2nd July. Pray for them as they arrange the funeral with Mike.
- Tuesday** the church leaders who meet this evening to discuss the implementation of a risk assessment for MRBC as well as other issues.
- Wednesday** those you know who have lost their jobs in lockdown or who are currently furloughed and face an uncertain future.
- Thursday** everyone who begins to grapple with the huge subject of suffering at our ENCOUNTER Bible study this morning.
- Friday** Heartlink—pray they receive the donations they need to meet the increasing demand to feed those desperately in need in India.
- Saturday** those you know who have lost their jobs in lockdown or who are currently furloughed and face an uncertain future.



OPEN HEAVEN
Online Celebration
Sunday 5 July, 6:00-7:00pm
A special Celebration Service, including worship, prayer, special features and an encouragement from Bishop Christopher
You will find the service on the [Open Heaven Youtube Channel](#)

Sing Your Praises to the LORD 🎵 🎵

A week of worship from worship leader, Helen.

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

1 John 3:1

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

May you know the delight of a deepening relationship with God. May your conversations with God lead to a profound experience of peace and a growing sense of knowing that You are loved, held and cherished. #niteblessing (Malcolm Duncan)

Songs for the week

(click on the song title for the link to YouTube)

[Love so great](#)

[His mercy is more](#)

[I stand amazed](#)

[Lord let your glory fall](#)

[King of glory](#)

[Is he worthy](#)

[Because of your love](#)

[YouTube playlist](#)

[Spotify playlist](#)

