

Cell Outlines

Week beginning: 4th November 2007

Theme: Jesus - Everything else is rubbish compared with Him! (Philippians 3:7-11)

To Get Us Started: What is the most valuable thing you own? What gives it the value? Have you ever lost an expensive item? Share with your cell how you felt and what it was? Did you ever recover it?

Word

- Read Philippians 3:7-11
 - Background - David Pawson says that the original power of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Church at Philippi has been watered down and became sanitised by recent translators. Paul was expressing the full horror of trying to live self-righteous lives and what it was worth. The Apostle Paul used a very crude Greek backstreet word, which worse than poo and began with 's'! (Phil.3:8) It is translated 'rubbish' in the NIV! Pawson says it is like a little boy holding up his potty and saying, 'Look what I've done!' (Discuss)
 - The point is that knowing Christ Jesus and being found in Him is priceless and worth everything that has to be endured for His sake.
 - Beware - busy effective Christians! Our ministries, our commitment, our strivings can easily become 'rubbish' if we neglect our relationship with Jesus as a result. It is possible to busy with Kingdom work and leave Jesus out of the frame! (How can you counteract this?)
 - Look again at the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-41. Imagine if you had God in your living-room and were too busy making tea and cakes in your kitchen to actually spend time with Him in His direct presence! Yet so often we can be just like Martha! Busying ourselves with 'good works' and neglecting the very One for whom we're meant to be doing it! (Do you identify with Mary or Martha? If so, share your experiences.)
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Worship/ Prayer

- Now stop!
 - Meditate on the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28. Please don't rush this important exercise, but spend at least 10 minutes rolling His words around in your mind and imagine Jesus standing in front of you with His arms outstretched saying these words to you! Share your experiences following this with your fellow cell members if you sensed Him speaking with you.
 - Spend some time in prayer for those stressed and weary who are struggling with life and don't know the Lord (or maybe those who have taken their focus off Jesus).
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Witness

- If appropriate, share your experience of spending time with Jesus with a friend or family member who you've been praying for recently.
- Do a stock take of your weekly activities before the Lord (individually or as a cell) and prayerfully consider whether or not He actually wants you to be spending the amounts of time on these tasks or whether you need to be 'counting them as rubbish' and spend more quality time with Him and your family/ friends instead.