

THE SUNDAY MESSAGE


GPS – God’s Positioning System

sunday 21 november




Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps.

What do you want to be?

 **Philippians 1:6** and **2 Corinthians 7:1-2**

The way we answer this question is often shaped from childhood. Answers then can be things like a fireman, a nurse, a football player, a princess and so on. They are cute answers and they start to shape us to think about the future. But when this question is asked of adults most often we answer it as if the question was ‘what do you do?’ or ‘what do you want to do?’ When we give an answer which is the title or description of our job (‘what we do’) then we’ve reduced the question to a fraction of the answer’s potential. So, if we don’t answer it with what we do can we answer with who we are as a person and a follower of Jesus?


What matters to God more than what I do?

 **Matthew 25:21 & 23** and **1 John 3:3** and **1 Peter 1:15-16**

We had a clue from the first part of the series about Jesus’ parable of three servants trusted with a vast amount of money until the owner returned. Jesus commended two servants by calling them faithful. In the Corinthian’s passage from the first question we are commended to be holy and Paul boasts that he has not cheated anyone nor has he corrupted anyone. Is it possible to be someone who is holy, who loves everyone, who leads everyone into righteousness and who serves everyone. The answer is a clear yes because that is the life Jesus led and lives which the apostles mirrored. It is the command of God, so it is possible.

Question: What do you want to be? Answer: A righteous person.

How can I be positioned for God?

 **1 Samuel 16:1-13** and **Luke 1:37**

The answer is now pretty clear. What matters more to God than skill, talent, looks, ability, education, experience and connections, worthy that all these are, is the nature of our heart. Time and again throughout history He has taken people who were nothing in the eyes of the world and made them champions who destroyed giants. Look at the life of David or General Booth of the Salvation Army or William Seymour, the leader of the Pentecostal Revival in 1906 or Evan Roberts, the leader of the Welsh Revival two years earlier. God needs us to get things like our heart, our character and our will into the right position and then He can do anything with and through us. The truth is: nothing is impossible for God with a totally surrendered and submitted soul filled with love.

NEXT STEPS

Think about anything which you complain about regarding your life. You might not complain out loud but you might do so in your thoughts and in your attitudes. It might be about a lack of money, or lack of work, or lack of health, or lack of time or lack of friends or lack of something else or it could be about a relation, a neighbour or work colleague we struggle with.

Ask this question of yourself: why am I complaining?

Ask this follow-up question: am I meant to do something or change something in me first? In the message on Sunday we heard that to be a doctor or nurse we need medical training. Could it be that God is waiting on us to be the answer to the situation? Could it be that He is waiting for us to be positioned in our attitude or use of time and money first?

Think about one Godly characteristic which you would like to be stronger in your life. It might be honesty, or it might be trustworthiness, or it might be timeliness, or it might be grace-filled words and actions, or it might be a servant-like attitude towards someone or a group of people. Get into a better position for God to work with you by changing just one aspect at a time and see what opens up for you.

Honour

In recent years the church in the western world has been receiving teaching about honouring. When we talk of honouring someone we usually think of it in the form of giving high public esteem and respect to a person who is usually a leader. In the Kingdom of God we often find God honouring people before they have achieved great positions of leadership or achievement. For example, Gideon is honoured by God (Judges 6:12) and Jesus saw into the future when he honoured the disciples by trusting them with founding the church.

If you are ever in a group of people who you know well and you invite a stranger gifted in prophecy to minister to the group you will hear how God believes in them and the mighty things He sees them doing. This helps us honour the person because we hear where God wants to position them in His plan. Often we will be amazed to hear what God thinks of someone’s potential as He honours the dream and call He has placed in their hearts. We all need others to believe in us as God believes in us.

Someone has said that they choose to honour what the person is now, rather than what the person isn’t being at the moment. Doing this will also position us for God’s favour and to reach the opportunities He has prepared for us.