

Money Matters Week 1 - 29 June 2009

The Money Matters Assignment

For us to summarise the ways which we believe that as a Church we can better deal with money matters to:

- Grow in our understanding of God;
- Support one another in financially difficult times;
- Develop a distinctive Christian lifestyle; and
- Reach out to those in financial need in the wider community around us.

What we covered in Week 1

We sometimes struggle to make our faith relevant to our everyday lives. We may even be oblivious to the fact that what we believe can be inconsistent with how we live. If ever there was an issue that calls out for this to be sorted out it is in our relationship with our money and possessions. It talks about the practical application of our faith. So often we don't seem to consider issues like this and the muted reaction of the Church to the Credit Crunch seems to bear this out. However much we talk about our faith this is not the same as living it out. In the words of Brian McLaren is our faith more about 'a system of belief' rather than 'a way of being'? How can we change this? Use the questions that we have discussed during our first session to think through these issues a little further.

A thought about money and possessions from the words of Jesus

Christians aren't always good at handling money. Luke 16:8-12, "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

An example from the life of Nehemiah

Nehemiah was a person who was deeply involved in the society that he was a part of – even though it was not his own (see Nehemiah Chapter 1). It was this that enabled him to persuade the King to help him restore the fortunes of Jerusalem and to be a force for positive change.

How am I involved in the world around me? Is there anything that I can learn from Nehemiah's example?

A prayer for the week

LORD, help me work out how my faith in you can make a difference in how I handle my money and my possessions. May I be open to the new things that you may want to teach me.

The Money Matters quiz

How many song titles can you come up with which have a monetary theme? You need to list the artist and the song. Entries must be submitted by Sunday 19 July 2009 and the winner will be announced in our final Session on Sunday 26 July!