****

**WELCOME TO MOUNT HERMON**

Sunday 1st November 2020

**SCATTERED BUT UNITED**

To the saints in [Addingham], the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1 v 1-2

**Message from David**

As we face a longer period of isolation it seems all the more important to encourage each other to keep praying, keep reading the Bible, keep seeking God, keep reaching out to others around us with the good news that ‘this is not all there is’. We are people of hope, we have hope to share – the world needs hope at the moment! How can we, as the people of God, share with others the hope we have? We cannot give what we do not have and so we must first seek God for ourselves – then we can share with others in an authentic way the difference knowing Jesus makes in our lives. If God is speaking to you clearly at the moment ask him for opportunities to share your day to day experiences with others. If you are finding it hard to motivate yourself to read the Bible, ask God to help you by his Spirit. God will bring the Bible to life if you ask him. The prayer and questions below can be applied to any passage in the Bible.

**Mission Praise 1100**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see you, I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love, as we sing ‘Holy, holy, holy.’

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,

holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

**Luke 21, 1-4**

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ‘Truly I tell you,’ he said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.’

**Prayer**

Father God, as I consider this Bible passage please open my eyes to see what you would show me today. Open my ears to hear what you would say to me today. Send your spirit to be my helper and guide as I apply what I learn to my life today. Amen

**Questions for reflection**

1. What does this passage tell me about God?
2. What does this passage tell me about people?
3. What is God teaching me today?
4. How can I apply what I have learned in my life today?
5. Who can I encourage today?

**A few thoughts on this particular passage**

God sees, no-one is insignificant to God, God values what we give him however small. We have different gifts but can all choose to put our trust in God. We can all give something. God sees the heart.

**Further Bible verses for reflection**

Matthew 25 v 14 to 30

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two bags more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. “Master,” he said, “you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.” His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

The man with two bags of gold also came. “Master,” he said, “you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more.” His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. “Master,” he said, “I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.”

His master replied, “You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Who dares despise the day of small things…? Zechariah 4 v 10

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Isaiah 40 v 29

**Our vision: to help people find their way back to God**