

**Small Groups @ TBC:
Sermon Discussion Notes**

Date of Sermon: 15 March 2015
Speaker: Mike levy
Title: The Cross - Freed To serve

Introduction: Much of the world we live in is centered on 'me', about what I want, about my happiness. For a follower of Jesus the issue of 'self' is a big one. What do we mean by 'self' what is our view of 'self' where do we find our identity? How does our view of 'self' free us to serve others?

Review: We are bombarded with messages that 'feed' our 'self' - we 'need' that car that holiday, that loan but as a follower of Jesus we know that our life is about who we are in Him and not about accumulating stuff. Jesus said whoever wishes to follow Him **MUST** deny himself and take up his cross, it is not seen as an option. The cross means death to self. What does this mean? 'Self' is not homogenous, there is the 'created self' made in God's image - nurture this, there is the 'self' that is the result of the fall - God's image defaced - deny this. Discovering our true identity and having a right view of 'self' provides a foundation from which we are then called to serve others, with an Agape love. There are many practical ways of doing this in Church Community. We need to have some consideration for 'me' because we are the temple of the Spirit and we will not be able to Minister if we are burnt out.

Read: Mark 8 verses 34-38
"In every Christian's heart there is a cross and a throne, and the Christian is on the throne till he puts himself on the cross; if he refuses the cross he remains on the throne. Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among gospel believers today. We want to be saved, but we insist that Christ do all the dying. No cross for us, no dethronement. No dying. We remain king within the little kingdom of Mansoul and wear our tinsel crown with all the pride of a Ceaser; but we doom ourselves to shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility". A. W Tozer

Reflect:

1. What is your view of self?
2. How do you hold in tension the fact that you are neither wholly worthy nor wholly worthless?
3. How secure are you in your identity in Christ?
4. In what ways do you need to deny yourself?
5. How do you feel about dying to your old self?
6. What does serving mean for you?
7. What do you need to do to be freed to serve in ministry?

Respond:

1. Pray for a strong sense of identity in Christ.
2. Pray that you will be released to serve in Ministry.
3. Do you need to talk and pray with someone about your sense of identity?
4. Consider what areas of Ministry you could serve in TBC - then find someone to talk to and pray with about it.

And finally:
Relax in peace and quiet in a the group and wait on God to speak into your life - be still, rest in him, maybe play some quiet music, don't rush - then share what God has been saying to you.