

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

## **Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church**

### **Welcome**

Psalm 34: *I will extol the Lord at all times, his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the lord with me, let us exalt his name together.*

But now, please join with me in **prayer**. *“Our Heavenly Father, we marvel at your majesty. We praise you with our hearts, minds and souls, for nothing can compare to you. You are almighty, and powerful, you created the heavens and the earth, and everything between. You will reign forever, will judge the world in righteousness, and govern the people with justice. But Lord, you are a loving and merciful God. You are slow to anger and full of compassion. And because of your great love for us, you sent us your Son Jesus Christ, who came to earth and took the punishment that we deserve. For we know that we have sinned against you Lord, we have angered you with our thoughts, with our words, and with our actions. We have been greedy and selfish, and we seek to rely on our own abilities, rather than putting our trust in you. We don’t always look out for others, and most importantly, we do not always put you first in everything that we do. For this, Lord, we are truly sorry, and we ask for your forgiveness.*

*We thank you though, for the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We thank you that through Jesus’ death and resurrection, he has paid the price for our sins. We thank you that whilst we deserve to be put to death and set apart from you for eternity because of our sins, that Jesus took this punishment upon himself. We thank you that Jesus has restored our relationship with you, that we have been made righteous, and are now able to be with you for eternity. We pray Lord that you will help us to turn away from our sinful lives, help us to live righteous lives, and to always put you first in our lives. Lord, help us to be shining lights so that others may come to see your wonderful glory. And we ask all of this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## **Song – Come hear the angels sing**

[Come Hear The Angels Sing // Emu Music - YouTube](#)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Come hear the angels sing<br/>           Worthy is the Lamb that was slain<br/>           Gathering round the throne<br/>           Hail the Son of Man<br/>           Hail the Son of Man<br/>           Not for their sin He died<br/>           It was no angel crucified<br/>           And yet they hold Him in their sight<br/>           And live to praise their Lord</p> | <p>3. What is the song we'll sing<br/>           As we join in heaven with our God?<br/>           A people from every land<br/>           Crowding round the Lamb<br/>           Crowding round the Lamb<br/>           We'll sing salvation's song<br/>           How many million voices strong!<br/>           We'll sing the glory of our King<br/>           Of Jesus Christ our Lord!</p> |
| <p>2. Come hear the elders sing<br/>           As they fall in praise to the Lamb<br/>           Bowing before the throne<br/>           Laying down their crowns<br/>           Laying down their crowns<br/>           They praise Him for His blood<br/>           With which He purchased men for God<br/>           They praise the Saviour of the world</p>                       |  |

## Bible Reading – Mark 12:18-34 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. <sup>19</sup> “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. <sup>20</sup> Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. <sup>21</sup> The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. <sup>22</sup> In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. <sup>23</sup> At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?” <sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? <sup>25</sup> When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup> Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? <sup>27</sup> He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” <sup>29</sup> “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. <sup>33</sup> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

## Announcements

**Focus for the month – Fellowship.** Fellowship is often best done when combined with hospitality. Having someone around for a cuppa or a meal or meeting them at a coffee shop or Maccas allows us to catch up with them, encourage them and ask how their Christian faith is going. How can we show that sort of fellowship this week and with whom?

**Flood Appeal.** The Presbyterian Church is running an appeal to support the Churches and their communities that were so devastated by the recent floods in Northern NSW. If you would like to pray or financially support this appeal please go to the Jericho Road webpage on click on the link [Flood Appeal - Jericho Road](#)

**First Aid Certificate.** The Church is updating its list of people who have a first aid certificate. If you have done your training and are willing to be called upon when needed please email or text Stephen

**Easter and Beyond.** We want to make Easter a special focus where we can invite our friends and neighbours along to hear the good news about Jesus. We are doing this by

- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April Kids Easter Outreach
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April Last Supper Communion Services – Swansea (4:30pm) & Charlestown (6pm)
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday services 8am & 9:45am
- Easter Sunday Resurrection Sunday Services 8am, 9:45am & 6pm
- Hope Explored Done within our small groups from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Bible Study Groups (if room).** It would be great if you were to consider joining one of our small groups, we have the following groups. We have men, women’s, mixed, young adults and young families groups either on a weekly or fortnightly basis, most in person but some on ZOOM. If you would like to be a part of group, please see Stephen or Jon.

**Collecting Sprouts (creche) and Seedlings (preschool)** children after kids church: would parents/carers please come promptly after church and wait for your children outside on the grassed area near the cottage. The children and their teachers will come out all together at 10.55am to meet you there.

**Annual Congregational Meeting.** Will be on NEXT Sunday @ 11am. This will be a time to review the finances, appoint a Committee of Management and set the ministry staffs stipends for the year. We will not have the costings for our proposed ministry facilities ready by this time and so we will need to have another meeting in another couple of weeks.

**Work Day.** We will be doing some general maintenance at the Charlestown Church on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 8am. All welcome to participate in both skilled and unskilled jobs!

**Hot Drinks.** To keep our young people safe we will no longer be serving hot drinks to our primary school kids at morning tea. The risk of scolding is too great for both them and those they are hanging around with.

**Kids Spot:** Peter was warned by Jesus that he would deny him 3 times in Matthew 26 and Peter did not believe him. But it happened! Today we will learn from this story and be challenged to pray that we will never be ashamed of Jesus. Question of the week: Who do you find it hard to tell that you follow Jesus?

## Song – Live for the Kingdom

1. Hear the good news, repent and believe  
Follow the saviour and everything leave  
Taking the yoke that's easy and light  
Dressed for the battle equipped for the fight  
Learn from the master to sacrifice all  
Glady obeying his call  
Live for the kingdom all of our days

Chorus. Now is the moment, the day of salvation  
This is the hour to be serving the king  
Bearing the gospel go to the nations  
Now is the time for our tribute to bring  
And live for the kingdom  
And give God the glory and honour and praise

2. Love one another, care for the lost  
Learn to live simply and carry your cross  
Jesus is near so stand and be strong  
Lift up your hearts in the victory song  
When you're mistreated be certain to bless  
Seeking his righteousness

3. Learn to pray daily your kingdom come  
And may your will on this earth soon be done  
Forgive our sins as we forgive  
Strengthen us while in these bodies we live  
So we might work for that glorious day  
When sin and death pass away

## Pastoral Prayer Points

**Psalm 7:** "O Lord my God, in you do I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and deliver me..." (v. 1). Like David, every believer faces trouble in the world. But in the midst of it we take refuge in the Lord. Resting in Jesus atoning death for our sins. Trusting that He will right all wrongs when he returns to judge the living and the dead.

**Pray for Christians in Victoria:** The Conversion law came into effect in February. Pray for parents, pastors and for all Victorian Christians - that they will have wisdom and that God will protect them from being prosecuted for sharing Biblical truth.

**Pray for basket weaving event:** Pray for the word to do its work in those who came along yesterday. Pray that conversations and connections would bear fruit. Give thanks for all those who put in the effort to make it happen.

**Pray for the federal election:** Pray that leaders will be appointed who will help our nation to flourish and the gospel to spread.

**Pray for the Webbs (CMS, Broome).** Thanks for Ezra Y7, Daniel Y5 and Emily Y3 enthusiasm for school. Prayer that God would grow them in faith, wisdom and character. Thanks for being able to stay in their rental home for another 12 months. Thanks for Keith and Jacinta Bedford working with the One Arm Point Christians. Keith is a thoughtful, bold indigenous Christian who is committed to teaching the people the word of God and leading them. Pray for Broome region as WA opens its borders with regards to the impact of Covid

## Bible Reading – Mark 12:35-44 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David?” <sup>36</sup> David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: “‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.”’” <sup>37</sup> David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?” The large crowd listened to him with delight.

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. <sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

## Sermon – How God centred are you?

How God centred is your life? If someone was to judge your life and mine by what they see of us, how much God would they actually see in us? Really, when you think about it, that’s a tough, tough question. For, as a Christian we have given our lives to the Lord. We are following Jesus down the paths he is leading us. We are filled with the Holy Spirit so God should be oozing out of us everywhere, shouldn’t He? We should be living completely different lives to those who haven’t centred their lives on Him.

Slide 2

And yet 1/3 of my life is asleep in bed, so there is not much difference there. And another 1/3 of life is at work or school or doing household tasks, so how do I centre my life on God when before me are my kids, my deadlines and my study? That leaves only the last third of my life where prayer and Bible reading and church competes with sport, TV, social media, reading and all my other relationships. So how do we centre our lives on God and still live out our hectic lives that God has given us?

Well as Jesus enters the last week of his life, his life and his beliefs are being put under the spotlight. The Pharisees and the Sadducees and the Scribes are trying discredit him. Trying to prove to the crowds that Jesus isn’t living a God centred life. And as we look and listen to four incidents in this last week, we are going to learn more about how you and I can live a more God centred life. Let’s see what I mean

Slide 3

### 1. The power of God. (Verses 18-27)

<sup>18</sup> “Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. <sup>19</sup> “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow & raise up offspring for his brother. Slide 4

<sup>20</sup> Now there were seven brothers. The first one married & died without leaving any children. <sup>21</sup> The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. <sup>22</sup> In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. <sup>23</sup> At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”

Now there’s been a lot of thought put into that question! It’s hardly going to be a common occurrence, is it? If you were to ask that question today you might say, “Jesus if Elizabeth Taylor is saved, which husband will she be married to in heaven?” But I think she was married to one of her 8 husbands 3 times wasn’t she, so it’s not quite the same problem!

Slide 5

Now I picture the Sadducees strutting around, high-fiving each other because their question was so amazing. They had probably rehearsed it many times before and watched others falter and fold. No one had ever been able to answer this question. They were painting a problem, a theological conundrum that in their minds was both absurd and unanswerable. They didn't believe in the resurrection and this sort of question just makes it a mockery!

Slide 6

But notice Jesus' reply. *"Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?"* If you don't know the Scriptures you are not going to know the answers to any questions about God you might have. And if you don't know God's power, then you don't know God Himself. You see being a student about God is completely different to being a follower of God. The first is academic. The second is transformational. And spoiler alert, you can't live a God centred life unless that life is powered by God Himself!

So, Jesus gives the Sadducees his answer and firstly it is about the nature of marriage itself. <sup>25</sup> *"When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven."* Jesus is saying, life in the next life is not a carbon copy of this world's life. For there will be no marriage in heaven. For we will be like the angels, notice it doesn't say we will become angels. No, we will be like the angels who are preoccupied with worshipping God and God Himself will be the centre of all that we do and say.

So that unfortunate woman that has lost seven married partners will not be married to any of them in heaven. For she will be part of the bride of Christ, the church, married to Jesus. So, there is no sex in heaven because we don't need to populate the world, because no one is leaving that place through death and needs replacing. And the closeness, the intimacy, the trust that marriage can bring is going to be characteristic of all relationships we experience not just one, our marriage partner. So, if you are married now, you will not lose your relationship with your husband and wife in heaven, instead every other relationship will be enhanced and every relationship will become equally perfect!

Slide 7

When John Penrie, 400 years ago, sat in his dungeon in the Tower of London the day before his execution, he wrote a letter to his wife and his four little children. He left the four girls a Bible each & he then gave his love to his wife, and he signed the letter, *"From your husband for a season, and your eternal brother."* From your husband for a season, and your eternal brother. In heaven we will be eternal brothers & sisters in Christ. How amazing will that be?

Because the Scriptures talk about believers being resurrected after death. Especially in the prophets in Isaiah 26, Ezekiel 37 and Daniel 12 there is clear teaching about the life to come. But the Sadducees only accepted the first five books in the Bible and the references to resurrection there were a bit harder to find. But Jesus goes onto their own turf and points out to them Exodus 3:6 in the second book of the Bible.

Slide 8

<sup>26</sup> *"Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?"* <sup>27</sup> *He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!"* The Patriarchs are not dead, they are still alive. God doesn't say I was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob before they died. He says I am still their God.

Slide 9

Now what does this tell us about the God centred life? It is life that knows the power of God For the same power that rose Jesus from the dead will also take us through the resurrection of the dead. But that same power of God is alive & active in all those who know the Bible, for it is the power of God for all those who put their trust in them. So, the God centred life is a powerful life. We have access to power while we work, wash up, study or surf.

Power to perform these tasks for the good of others **and** for the praise of God. Power to rely not just on our own resources, but the power of the Holy Spirit can change not just what we do but the results of what we do. He gives us power to forgive, to serve, to love and to care. So much so that the power of God is seen in our lives by those who are watching them. But the God centred life is not just one that experiences the power of God but also

Slide 10

## 2. The love of God (Verses 28-34)

<sup>28</sup> “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “Jesus there are some 613 laws in the OT. Which one of them is the greatest? Which do I have to make sure I never ever break?” <sup>29</sup> “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’ <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

There is not just one commandment that is the greatest. But there is one theme that is greater than any other. And that is love. We must love God with all that we have. All your heart, all that is within you, your feelings and your emotions, they are to be directed at him more than our wife, our kids, our best friends. And with all our soul, the deepest part of our being, the thing that is at the centre of all that we have and are is to be directed not at ourselves or our jobs but it must be lovingly directed toward our God. And with all our mind. The way we think, the things we read, and watch needs to be filled with a love of God. And with all our strength, our energy, our drive, our passion must not be toward our career, or our sporting team or our bank balances it must be toward the love of God.

Slide 11

But how do we show that the love of God is the centre of all that we do? Well, we show that by how we treat the people that God has placed all around us. <sup>31</sup> *The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.*” But what does this mean for this second command doesn’t appear in the Bible in a vacuum, it has a context

Slide 12

And so, if you were read the whole of the Leviticus 19 you would find out that you love your neighbour by caring for the poor (v10), not stealing (v11), not lying (v11), being fair in your business dealings (v14), caring for the deaf and blind (v14), dealing justly with all (v15), avoiding slander (v16), not harbouring hatred against your neighbour (v17), rebuking your neighbour when necessary and not bearing a grudge against others.

Slide 13

You see these two commandments are complementary. Love for God is expressed by love for neighbour. And love for neighbour is perfected by our love for God. And both of them flow from God’s love for us. God loves us so much that he has made us, saved us, forgiven us and is in the process of transforming us. That sort of love gives us the power to live a life of love. A God focused life of love.

Which just means that everything we do needs to be tinged with love. Not just your relationship with God, not just the spiritual things in your life, but everything. Everything you do whether it is worshipping in Church, or washing the dishes. Whether it is reading your Bible or putting out the garbage, needs to be done in a loving attitude. And needs to be done in a way that God’s love for you is either returned back to God or allowed to flow through to those around you.

Which means that the God centred life will revolve around love. You will have drunk from the tap of God’s love so deeply that this love powers everything you do and say and think and feel. You might be doing a job that others are doing it but you know the power of God in your life and you are motivated by the love of God in all that you do. And that has to come out in your attitude, in your relationships, in all that you do and all that you produce.

Now the teacher of the law recognises Jesus' answer is a good one and he commends him for it. And when Jesus hears his words, he acknowledges this man's wisdom and says to him, *"You are not far from the kingdom of God."* Although his life is one of studying God's word, he was not yet in the Kingdom of God. But he is close. If he continues to be open to Jesus words, if he keeps the love of God central to all that he does, if he puts his trust in all that Jesus is offering him, then he will join Jesus in the kingdom of God.

And that's a challenge also for you and me. It is no use being close to the Kingdom of God if you don't take the last necessary steps to be in the Kingdom of God. And to do that we need to know the Scriptures and the power of God, His laws and His love. We need to have God at the centre of everything we do. We need to be thinking about him not just once or twice a day but all the time. So that every action represents our love for God. And every step relies on the power of God. Actually, at the centre of everything needs to be

Slide 15

### 3. The Son of God (verses 35-37)

<sup>35</sup> *"While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David?"* <sup>36</sup> *David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."'* <sup>37</sup> *David himself calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?"* The large crowd listened to him with delight."

Now let's follow Jesus' logic. Jesus is saying. The Jews are expecting a Messiah and in the Scriptures, it says he will come from the line of David, so he is David's son or least his great, great, great, great grandson. So, because he can trace his lineage back to King David, he is someone incredibly special. But how come in Psalm 110, David then calls him Lord? How can the descendent be more important than King David?

Now Jesus hearers don't know. They had never thought about this before. And the answer that is not given here is that because this Messiah, this son of David is also the Son of God. He is both a man who is a descendent of King David and supernaturally conceived in such a way that God Himself is his father. He is not just a son but a sovereign.

Slide 16

And so, if you want to experience the power of God. If you want to be filled with the love of God, you need to make the Son of God your Lord and King. You need to realise that the Scriptures are pointing to Jesus. You need to see the power of God and the love of God is manifested in his son Jesus. And Jesus needs to be the centre of your life.

So if you and I want to live a God centred life, it will be built on the foundations that Jesus Christ has laid down for us. He has secured our salvation. He has forgiven our sins. He has purchased us with the price that is his blood, so we are now living for him. Which means I will best serve my boss at work when I am working for him and Jesus. I will be the best husband to my wife when I am serving her and Jesus at the same time. I will be able to play sport, read books, do the gardening all for the glory of Jesus.

And that will show up in what I do & in what I say. In some ways a God centred life may do the exact same things as a self-centred life but the way that I am doing things and the reason that I am doing these things and even the results of the things that I will do will be different and noticeable to others. Because I am not doing this for myself, I am doing it for God's glory. And I am not relying on my own gifts and abilities but the power of God and the love of God is affecting all that I do. Which leads Jesus to point out two case studies – a negative example of a follower of God and a positive one.

Slide 17

### 4. The Follower of God (verses 38-44)

<sup>38</sup> *"As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes & be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, & have the most important seats in the synagogues &*

*the places of honour at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."*

Here are the guys who think they are living a God centred life but their actions betray them. They are all show but no substance. You see they like being the centre of attention with their nice clothes but shouldn't God be the centre of attention? And they live to receive honour from the people around them but shouldn't they make sure that the honour is going to God? And they like the privileges of the office, the best seats and the best servings of food. Doesn't that show they are concentrating on what they can get out of others rather than what they can give to God and to others?

Yet they are the ones taking advantage of the weak and they are the ones who show off how godly they are. But they are not godly because they are not God centred. They are self-centred. And because of that they will get what they deserve from God. A just punishment.

Slide 18

But in contrast to these hypocrites, Jesus points out the humble. <sup>41</sup> "Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came & put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. <sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Slide 19

What a marvelous example of someone who is relying on the power of God, she now has nothing left to live on. What a case study in someone who loves God with all her heart and soul and mind and strength. Here is someone who doesn't have a victim mentality, going over and over in her head why has life treated me so unfairly? Instead, she gives all that God has given her, back to God.

Now that's different, isn't it? It is not what you give that is important, it's what you keep. For what you give is determined by a few things but the most important thing is how much you have. I can't put \$10,000 in the plate today if I physically don't have it. But what you keep levels the playing field somewhat. We all have to survive on what we have left. And the poor widow left nothing. She gave it all. And because she gave it all now, she has to trust, completely trust in God into the future.

Now if I was this poor woman's minister, I would be advising her not to give all that she has into the Church's offering plate this Sunday. That is making you dependent upon others. What if you don't have anything to eat tonight? Whose fault will that be?

Actually, it will be my fault. It will be the Church's fault. Because it is our job to look after the widow & to care for the poor. You see God is the father to the orphan, the husband of the widow, the provider of good things to the poor. And he is calling his followers to follow his example. So whether she keeps those two copper coins or gives them away, she is still our responsibility. And if we see in her a God centred life it is an example that we need to follow. A case study that should make us want to live a more God centred life ourselves.

You see God has been generous to us in what He has given us. Which means we are called to be generous to those around us. But generosity is not about the portion of money or time you give, it's about the proportion that you give. Really, it is not about how much you give but how much you keep. It not just about your action, its also about your heart.

Slide 20

There's a story of a little girl in church, and when the offering plate comes around, she puts in her treasured little doll. Now this is the doll that she takes to bed with her at night, and gets up in the



morning and carries it around under her arm. And she puts her doll into the offering plate. And the deacons are touched, and the minister during the course of the week comes round and visits the family and brings the doll with him, and says to the little girl, "I'm giving her back to you." And the little girl wipes a tear from her eyes and shakes her head, and says, "No." And when the pastor asks why, she says, "I didn't give it to you. I gave my doll to the Lord."

Slide 21

That is an example of a god centred life. That is someone who is filled with the power of God, the love of God and is following the son of God. For the Son of God will soon give himself to us. He left nothing behind. He made the greatest sacrifice of all. And his last words were "Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit." He surrendered all. He gave his all. To God his Father and to his neighbours, his brothers and sisters in Christ. So, are we, his follower? Are we relying on his power? Are we motivated by his love?

Slide 22

A police officer pulled a driver over one day. "What's wrong, officer," the driver asked. "I didn't go through any red lights, and I certainly wasn't speeding." "No, you weren't," said the officer, "but I saw you waving your fist as you swerved around the lady driving in the left lane, and I further observed your flushed and angry face as you shouted at the driver of the Hummer who cut you off, and how you pounded your steering wheel when the traffic came to a stop near the bridge." "Is that a crime, officer?" "No, but when I saw the 'Jesus loves you and so do I' bumper sticker on the car, I figured this car had to be stolen."

Slide 23

How God centred is your life? If someone was to judge your life and mine by what they see of us, how much God would they actually see in you and me? And who are we honestly more like? The teacher of the law or the poor widow?

## Song – Take my life

### [Take My Life – Emu Music](#)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Take my life and let it be<br/>Consecrated Lord to Thee<br/>Take my moments and my days<br/>Let them flow in ceaseless praise<br/>Let them flow in ceaseless praise</p>          | <p>3. Take my silver and my gold<br/>Not a mite would I withhold<br/>Take my intellect and use<br/>Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose<br/>Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose</p> |
| <p>2. Take my voice and let me sing<br/>Always only for my King<br/>Take my lips and let them be<br/>Filled with messages from Thee<br/>Filled with messages from Thee</p>             | <p>4. Take my will and make it Thine<br/>It shall be no longer mine<br/>Take my heart it is Thine own<br/>It shall be Thy royal throne<br/>It shall be Thy royal thrones</p> |
| <p><b>Chorus</b> Take my hands and let them move<br/>At the impulse of Thy love<br/>Take my feet and let them be<br/>Swift and beautiful for Thee<br/>Swift and beautiful for Thee</p> | <p>5. Take my love my Lord I pour<br/>At Thy feet its treasure store<br/>Take myself and I will be<br/>Ever only all for Thee<br/>Ever only all for Thee</p>                 |

**Closing.** *'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'*<sup>30</sup> *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*<sup>31</sup> *The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* *There is no commandment greater than these."*