

## WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 8 June 2008

The Good Life – Jesus' prayer school

Matthew 6 v.5 – 15

1. You have won the competition! The top prize is yours!  
Now you have to choose. Would you rather have:
  - (i) An all-expenses paid holiday in the location of your choice, all organised for you?OR
  - (ii) The 'equivalent' cash prize?... and give the reason for your choice!

### **Read Matthew 6:1-21**

The first part (Matthew 5:1-48) of *'The Sermon on the Mount'* is Jesus' teaching on how to correctly understand God's law. Now, in 6:1-18, Jesus discusses three aspects of Kingdom living (alms giving vv1-4, prayer vv5-15, fasting vv16-18) to illustrate the importance of having right priorities.

2. We regularly pray the 'Our Father' prayer (vv 9b-13), but what might ***the coming of the Kingdom*** (v10a) look like in each of the following scenarios... and would we recognize it anyway!? NB Don't jump on to the next scenario until everyone in your group who wants to speak has had their say!

- (i) The life of a teenager from a Christian home who has previously lost interest in Christian things.
- (ii) The home of your non-church attending neighbours.
- (iii) The church service that you attend.
- (iv) Your mind. (Check out 2 Corinthians 10:5 for a thought!)

3. How should an appreciation of the Kingdom affect our prayer lives therefore?

*'You sum up the whole of New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator'*

(J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* p.224)

4. How should a growing appreciation of God as Father (vv 1, 4, 6a, 6b, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18a, 18b) affect our prayer lives?
5. Why might Matthew 6:19-21 be seen as a key to unlocking the over-arching theme of 6:1-18?