

## A Gift for the Summer (Keith Brindle, 16/07/23)

### Psalm 90.

1. What was your initial response to what Keith shared on Sunday?
  - a. Were there things he shared about himself that resonated with how things are for you currently? What were these?
  - b. What in his talk did you find challenging, consoling, confusing, inspiring or helpful? Discuss
2. What are the ways in which you have pushed your relationship with Jesus into the margins of your (daily) life?
3. Being as honest as you can be, on a scale of 1 to 10, how do you feel your inner relationship with Jesus currently is. (1= non-existent, 10 = beyond my wildest expectations!)
4. Do you feel that your relationship with God has plateaued, stagnated, deteriorated, recently/over time?
5. What do you feel has impacted (positively/negatively) upon the quality and nature of your current relationship with Jesus?
6. How do you get the balance right between your private interior life with Jesus, and your public life? What do you notice about yourself when your interior life in Jesus is not going well? (Keith shared how it impacted upon other important relationships.)
7. When it comes to our own sinfulness how do we get the balance right; being aware of it, whilst not being preoccupied and defeated by it. (Here seeking regular repentance and knowing/accepting forgiveness through Jesus is key.)
8. Have you come to accept that your current relationship with Jesus is 'as good as it gets'? What do you think Jesus might want to say to you about this? (Matt 6:33, John 10:10, Ps 90:1-2, 14)
9. In what way do you make your relationship with Jesus
  - a. about rules
  - b. about meeting the expectations of others
  - c. religious things
  - d. peripheral things
10. Read Ps 90:5-6 (some of these words are incorporated into the Committal at a Funeral) and compare them to Ps 90:14. Note that though our lives are finite (vs5-6), God's daily provision (vs14 'in the morning') is infinite (2<sup>nd</sup> part of vs14)
11. Read Ps 90:12. How could knowing that our days are finite, and we do not know what tomorrow will bring, enable us to find wisdom in how we approach/live each day. (Also consider these words from the prayer said for those gathered at a funeral service 'Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright, the time that is left to us here on earth, to turn to Christ and follow in his steps, in the way that leads to everlasting life.')

12. In addition to your relationship with Jesus, what are the other important relationships in your life that could be plateauing/deteriorating? Is this acceptable (to you, to the other person, to Jesus)? What might need to change? (Note: It is possible to have plateaued at a good place, where both people in the relationship feel known, secure, and loved.)
13. In the past what has enabled you to deepen your relationship with Jesus and for the relationship to have a significance and impact on your day to day life? Could you give time and energy in these things again?
14. A gift for the summer. Without turning it into a rule, what could you do each day over the summer to deepen your relationship with God? Could these be shared now, such that CG members could encourage and pray for one another over the summer. (On average it 21 days to turn a daily practise into a habit, and 90 to turn a habit into a lifestyle)