

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 29th May 2022
Sermon Title: What's your next step?
Bible Passage: 1 Peter 4: 1 - 11

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What is the background to this story?
- What stands out to you from this passage?

Recapping the Preach

Stu began the message by telling a story of Einstein with the point being, 'where are you going? In what direction are your steps taking you?' It is an important question because our steps determine our direction in life, not our intentions. He then said that 1 Peter 4:1-11 suggests there are two directions we can move in. Option 1 is living for our own earthly desires (vs.3 but we have spent enough time doing that).

- Peter lists things that the unbelievers (pagans) do in verse 3. Do you think these are still an issue today?
- Fill in the modern day examples in the blank, 'For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do -'
- What do you think Peter means when he writes, 'He who suffers in the body is done with sin'?
- Why would unbelievers be surprised that we don't join them in reckless and wild living? Have you experienced this before?

Stu went on to point out that Option 2 is living towards the will of God and that Scripture gives us a broad picture of what God's will looks like. He then pointed out that Peter gives us four practical steps we can take towards the will of God: pray, love deeply, practice hospitality and serve using our gifts.

- What (if any) is the significance of Peter suggesting these four practices?
- How can we be serious and watchful in prayer - what would that look like in your everyday?
- How can we demonstrate loving others deeply? What practical things could you do?
- What are the challenges to practicing hospitality today?
- If someone asked you, 'what is a spiritual gift?' - how would you answer them?
- Make a list of the gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11).
 - What is the gift God has given you?
 - How are you able to use your gift to serve the church?
 - What gifts do you think the church needs at this time?
- What is the ultimate goal in living towards the will of God (vs.11b)?

Stu finished by asking the question - what is your next step in your faith journey? How can you move from being a consumer to being an active part of church life, doing one thing and doing it well?

- So, what is your next step?
- What are you going to do about it?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>