

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 21– August 14th



**by Nicky
Gangemi**



n Sunday Adam spoke to us from Matthew 5 and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We were reminded

that so much of Jesus teaching takes the letter of the law, that was given to Israel at the foot of Mount Sinai, and levels it up. Faithfulness is not just about following the letter of the law, faithfulness is living out the law in love. Faithfulness is inspired by our love for God and shown in

Love & Faithfulness

how we love Him and others.

I was really struck this week as I sat and listened to Adam taking us through this passage that the heart of the issue is actually our heart.

In verses 27-28 Jesus uses the example of not committing adultery, and pushes it to not even looking at someone with lust in their heart. The physical sin of committing adultery can be quite an obvious sin, but if I choose to look and think lustfully about someone, that can be hidden from almost everyone. Well everyone, except myself and God.

It can be really easy to justify our sins; we are very good at blaming our circumstances, others, an external factor, or even just downplaying its seriousness. But Jesus smashes this thinking out of the park in verses 29-30. He shows how serious sin actually is! The thrust of His

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Top left hand corner of the Image read: *God, Guns & Country! That's What Made America Great!*

What Makes One Great?

by Adam Richards

I recently saw this image and found myself somewhat taken aback by it. I found the triad of God, Guns & Country being the things that made America great a surprising collection. Thinking about the sentence, what stuck out to me was the word 'Great!' Why would having a god, a gun and a country make life great? I'm assuming what they mean by great is an American life made great by those things. But why? When people use terms like good or great, they often fill them with ideas they have not explained. Instead they

simply assume everyone has the same idea of 'greatness' and proceed to proclaim the 'Great Life' to all.

Take for example Trump's campaign slogan, 'Make America Great Again!' The slogan's genius allows people to fill it with their own ideas about American greatness. And who does not want to be great? The slogan's effectiveness is in its emptiness. All politicians do this, as Obama's campaign slogan, 'Change' works in exactly the same manner. Trump's slogan rallies American's feeling disaffected and wanting greatness to vote for Trump. Yet it never truly explains American greatness, except to say maybe 'God, Guns & Country!',

which ultimately is a similarly empty statement.

Though American definitions of greatness are largely far removed from our lives, the search for greatness or the great life is not! Though the American slogan makes most Australians draw back in surprise, yet many Australians will desire to define greatness in terms of the 'Great Aussie Dream' in much the same way. Greatness is defined

fill it with our own desires that is so contrary to the Christian life.

Jesus tackles this idea head on with his disciples when they are jockeying for position in his kingdom (Mark 10:35-45). When John and James ask Jesus to sit at his left and right hand, they ask to be made great. Jesus responds that true greatness is not found in the power of the individual or asserting our rights over others. True greatness is being a servant of others. Jesus fills out the meaning of this through his death upon the cross. For Christians, 'greatness' is not an empty word, but an act of willing sacrifice for the sake of others. Serving others is hard work. But Christians serve as Christ served us, so that God's greatness is displayed across the globe. This is true Christian greatness, to lay one's life down in the service of others! Let us pray that through God's strength we might find the courage to strive for true Christian greatness.



differently the world over, but at the centre of many of those definitions of greatness is a universal heart-felt desire to define it as we want. It is this heart-felt desire to search for our own meaning of greatness, to

For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45.

argument goes like this: it is better for you to be physically maimed in this life than for you to end up in hell. Now of course we know that gouging out an eye or cutting of a hand won't actually address the heart issue, we can still lust without our eyes, we can still sin without using our hands. What we actually need is a heart transplant. And that is exactly what Jesus offers us.

A heart transplant occurs when we repent and become a Christian. God replaces our hardened unfaithful hearts,

with soft new hearts that love Him and want to follow Him (Ezekiel 11:19, Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 8:10). Our new heart allows us to live out lives that are marked by faithfulness. Without our heart transplants, we remain in our sins and we are not God's people.

Heart Q&A

- So how's your heart?
- Do you have a new heart soft towards God or do you still have a heart of stone against God?
- How are you going at living out faithfulness inspire by love?
- Do you justify your sin?
- Do you downplay the seriousness of sin?



Church Returns

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday
30th August 8am
At Glenquarie
Register Online
<https://www.barneysingleburn.com/preregister.html>
Or Call Adam
on 0457 775 538

Find-A-Word - Faithful

Actually	Faithfulness	Issue	Repent
Argument	God	Jeremiah	Thinking
Course	Greatness	Kataphatic	Transplant
Crime	Hands	Literally	Trump
Example	Hardened	Lust	Without
External	Heart	Obvious	
Eye	Hell	Physical	

I S S U E D A S X A N G E H J
F E S R U O C E C H F X W K G
E M I R C L P T A T T Q E O F
H E A R T M U R H E Y X D A Y
U L J E U A D I R J A T I T L
G K G R L E N N W M N T N A T
R A T L N K A I P A H E C N T
E T Y E I L T L L F M I E S Y
A A D N Z H E P U U S P U D L
T P G T O S S L G Y E L J N L
N H Q U U N N R H R I I L A E
E A T O A E A P W R F D W H H
S T J R S Z J E R E M I A H H
S I T S A P Y L L A R E T I L
Q C E Y E M B O B V I O U S A

PRAYER POINTS



Please send through points for yourself. I will also pick up points from around Barneys to place here if others feel comfortable sharing.

- Give thanks that James can demolish the toilet block this weekend. Pray for safety in work.
- Pray that as COVID restrictions lift that we will be able to get on-site ministries running safely.