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If it weren't for the message of mercy and pity in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, I wouldn't want to be a human being. I would just as soon be a rattlesnake.

Kurt Vonnegut; author and (agnostic) humanist



A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate Christ, working with others to advance God's Kingdom in Chard and the world

Seek God – in prayer, worship, study of the Scripture and fellowship, we value the pursuit of God in Jesus Christ;

Love Generously – in time, talent and treasure, to stimulate one another to good works and a lifestyle of generosity;

Expect transformation – to see God's Holy Spirit move in individual lives, in the church and across our community

You may have been coming to Forefront for years. Or maybe you just popped in for one Sunday. Either way, if you feel moved to act on the things mentioned in the talks, we would be pleased to pray with you.

Ask someone in the service to point you in the right direction, or call in during the week at Forefront Community Centre (next to Chard Post Office sorting centre).

The basis for the ethics of the Sermon on the Mount is not what works but rather the way God is. Cheek-turning is not advocated as what works (it usually does not), but advocated because this is the way God is - God is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish.

Stanley Hauerwas

For the next four weeks we are looking at Matthew 6 in our Sunday sermons. This is the second chapter of the "Sermon on the Mount", a collection of teachings which summarise the content of the main aspects of Jesus's public preaching. We looked at the first chapter from September to November 2016, and we will look at the next chapter later this year. Please keep this leaflet to hand so you can read the specific passage ahead, each Sunday. In addition, why not:

- Read the whole chapter before we get started;
- Read the whole book to get the context;
- Pray that God will show us all something new from his Word that we can put into practice



The sermon
on
the Mount

Giving—Matthew 6:1-4

Jo Kerr, 26 February

What you do, matters; as does the way that you do it. The reason that you do it, matters more. And the person for whom you do it, matters most.



These principles recur through this chapter, but begin with how and why we give. The key issue is faith—do we really believe that God exists, sees what is done and rewards it?

Possessions—Matthew 6:19-24

David Burfield, 12 March

If you want to understand someone's priorities, look at where they invest their money, how they use their home, what they consider valuable. v21 says that the disposal of our "treasure" is a reliable guide to our heart's priorities.

The word "mammon", used for money in v24, is the same as "worldly wealth" in the parable of the unjust manager (Luke 16, verses 9, 11 and 13). Note that the moral of that parable is the same as that in our passage today.



Prayer—Matthew 6:5-18

Keith Barnard, 5 March

Augustine of Hippo wrote, "Whatever else we say when we pray, if we pray as we should, we are only saying what is already contained in the Lord's Prayer."

Others, from Martin Luther to J I Packer, have echoed the thought. If that is so, then we need to get to grips with what the Lord's prayer says—but more, what attitudes, thoughts and desires it implies we should have when we go to pray.

This is a Communion service; please come prepared.

Our prayers lay the track down on which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails. Watchman Nee

Before we can pray, "Lord, Thy Kingdom come," we must be willing to pray, "My Kingdom go." Alan Redpath



We continue to focus in 2017 on specific calling—every member of the congregation seeking God for a sense of what he has for them to do, and what gifts he has given to enable that, and taking action to pursue that calling. The topics in this series are very helpful in this pursuit of God's call on us as a Church and as individuals. Humility, prayer, a right attitude to possessions and the ability to shape our lives according to the priorities we set are vital.

Priorities—Matthew 6:25-34

Andy Mills, 19 March

Andy is the pastor at Chard Baptist Church, a fellow member of Chard Churches Together and a good friend of Forefront's.

There is a whole industry devoted to helping people to stop worrying; self-help books, hypnosis, medication, counselling. As society gets richer and more complicated, it seems the number of things to worry about increases. Before spending money on a solution to your worries, see what Jesus says about setting the right priorities as a key to mental well-being.

This is a Breakfast service—from 9.30am we will be enjoying a cooked breakfast in the Guildhall. It's a great event—invite a friend or neighbour.