

All Age Communion and Baptism Trinity 8 2022

When I was a child my Mum used to call me Noosh. We call our daughter Caelie, Pod. Does anyone here have any special affectionate names that they are called by their family?

At the beginning of our reading Jesus calls the people He is talking to “Little flock”, it is an affectionate name for all of His friends and that includes us if we are His friends. It is a way of telling us He loves us.

He goes on to tell them to be generous, especially to the poor. Hopefully everyone here is generous. And then He goes on to warn them always to be ready because one day at the end of time He will come back and no-one knows when that will be.

Show poster.

This poster does make me laugh, but it is so wrong. Jesus doesn't want us to pretend to be busy. He doesn't want us to be busy at all.

Are there any Scouts here? What is the Scouts Motto?

Jesus gives us lots of examples of people being prepared.

I used to be a Brownie and the Brownie Guide law was ‘A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself and does a good turn every day’

These are the things that Jesus is talking about. Being prepared and always putting other people first.

When He says, “Where your treasure is, that is where your heart will be”, He is saying that if your friendship with Him is the most important thing, then you will want to be like Him and to be with Him forever. But if the most important things to you are things that you have or things that you want, then you will be always thinking about those things rather than thinking about how to be more loving and kind and forgiving, like He is. And if you have lots of things

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then it is tempting to spend your time looking after your things and protecting them rather than looking after and protecting other people.

I said to the school leavers a couple of weeks ago, that they get to choose what type of person they want to be. We all do. We get to choose if we want to be a friend of Jesus, one of His little flock. We get to choose whether we want to try to be more like Him and allow the Holy Spirit to help us. We get to choose whether we want to care more about things than about God. We get to choose whether to be loving and kind and forgiving.

I want to read the passage to you again in the message version.

Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself.

"Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

"Keep your shirts on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their master to come back from his honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when he arrives and knocks. Lucky the servants whom the master finds on watch! He'll put on an apron, sit them at the table, and serve them a meal, sharing his wedding feast with them. It doesn't matter what time of the night he arrives; they're awake—and so blessed!

"You know that if the house owner had known what night the burglar was coming, he wouldn't have stayed out late and left the place unlocked. So don't you be slovenly and careless. Just when you don't expect him, the Son of Man will show up."