



Faith And the Environment

Date: 7th July 2019

Speakers: Elaine Webster and Luke Olly

Key Verses: Genesis 1:1-31 and Matthew 25:14-30

Talk Summary:

- God created the earth and gave it to people to look after.
- Jesus tells a story with a meaning (a parable) in Matthew 25:14-30 that also talks about servants being left in charge of things while the master is away.
- If we sandwich together the Old and New Testament messages then we are to grow and multiply what God has given us, not just maintain it. So, how well are we looking after what God has given us?
- The state of the earth is about people too. As the temperature rises and the seas rise floods and droughts will deplete the land. People will die through lack of food and safe places to live. Jesus said, whatever you do for the least of these you do for me. We have a call to act for those people, to look after those humans with the choices and actions we take every day. We all recognize there is more we could do.
- It's easy to make and drop resolutions if we make decisions in our own strength. When God asks us to do something or highlights something it is much easier to be consistent and stick with change.
- We asked God to show us one thing to change a wide variety of suggestions.

Activities / Questions for discussion

- Ice breaker - If you were in government what one change would you make to make a difference to our environment?
- Did you realise the Bible had things to say about the environment? Are there other areas of the Bible that you see God caring about the environment?
- Who took away a challenge from the service are you happy to share it? If you weren't at the service or didn't take away a challenge, what is one area that you can make adjustments in to care for the environment?
- Pray for each other

With the questions the goal is to generate self-disclosure and biblical application not just theoretical discussion.

To ponder or pray about this week...

What difference could we make together as a small group?