

Sunday 5 February 2017 Donovan Gibbons

Matthew 13:1-23 – worry!

1. Donovan talked about his worries about leaving electrical devices switched on while away for the day. Recall instances when you have returned to the house to check if you'd left an appliance on - How often did you simply find everything was as it should be? Why do we worry like this? What affect does checking have on our peace of mind?
2. Discuss the positive and negative aspects of worry.
3. How does Jesus suggest we deal with worries (Matthew 6:25-35)
4. Read Matthew 13:22. Can you identify some of the thorns which threaten to throttle our spiritual growth?
5. Donovan highlighted two specific lessons from the Parable of the Sower. (i) healthy roots are important. Which spiritual disciplines will help us develop healthy roots? (see Colossians 2:6-7) (ii) When thorns(worries) spring up bring them to God and draw on His promises. Look at the list of twelve promises which Donovan made available. Which ones have you found helpful in the past? Which may be helpful to your situation right now?
6. Have you any testimonies to share relating to Donovan's three fold challenge - make God your first thought of the day; at the close of the day give to God each thing that bothered you today; any time a problem/worry/anxiety kicks in during the day recall one of the specific promises listed.
7. Choose one promise each week and commit it to memory.

John S Smith 7 February 2017