

## Study Notes based on 21 May talk by Graeme Clark

### Matthew 7:13-29; 28:16-20

1. Atheist Bertrand Russell wrote "The Ten Commandments should be headed like an examination paper: No more than six to be attempted." Graeme observed that we'd like to pick and choose our commandments. How do you respond to these statements?
2. People don't like being told, 'you must, you should or you mustn't'. In what ways are these words helpful in the process of discipleship? In what ways unhelpful? If we are to observe 'everything' Jesus commanded, are these words inevitable?
3. Graeme expressed reservations over the use of the word 'volunteer' implying a negotiation of time committed in Christian service. Do you share this reservation? How do we ensure that over expectation is not detrimental to a 'volunteer's' health, faith, family life etc?
4. Jesus said 'if you love me, you will obey what I command' (John 14:15). What is the relationship between love and obedience? See also John 15:9-14.
5. Genesis 15:16 has a curious reference to the sin of the Amorites not yet having reached its full measure. Graeme suggested that the more they sinned, the closer judgement approached. Graeme then applied this to the world – Do we think that each time we disobey we bring judgment nearer? Do we live as if we believe our actions have such huge consequences?
6. Graeme shared the good news – everything is not your problem! Jesus deals with the everything. See Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 8:1-2. In what ways is this a releasing thought?
7. 'When we make disciples we need to build one another up by being honest – don't pretend you've got it sorted!' How great is the temptation to suggest that the Christian life is a bed of roses. 'Life is wonderful now'!
8. Read 2 Peter 1:3-11. Note particularly the 'everything' in v3. Graeme said 'Take everything to Jesus, and follow one step at a time' Pray for one another wherever we each are on the journey.

John S Smith 23 May 2017