

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Prayer Sunday

### **Happy New Year!**

We are becoming people who understand and act in bringing God's Kingdom wherever we are. We are learning to see situations through our heavenly Father's eyes, and to ask Him – What's really going on here?

We have been asking Him for specific words of love and encouragement for people that He picks out for us. We are calling these "now" words. Examples are Jonathan's and Lizzie's testimonies today.

Like Jeremiah, who was called by God to "uproot and tear down, destroy and overthrow nations and to build up and plant others" (Jeremiah 1:10) we are called to join in bringing God's Kingdom by "binding and loosing" in the spiritual realm. (Matthew 18:18)

So, as we live and work in our different communities, we sometimes come across a situation that is troubling or challenging or confusing and that's when we can ask God how He sees the situation. Ask Him, What's really going on here? Then what He shows us will give us compassion and understanding, and a clearer sense of how to pray and act. We will probably become aware of schemes of the enemy that we can 'bind' in Jesus Name, and plans and purposes of Jesus that we can 'loose'. Then we keep praying, and wait and see what He will do!

For example:

Someone at work everyone finds difficult. When he walks into the office he brings a bad atmosphere. We have all tried talking to him, but nothing seems to work.

"Father, how do you see this situation? What's really going on here?"

He might show us that this man has a lot of fear, because someone in his family is very sick. He pours out lots in that situation and has nothing left, emotionally, for work. He may show us that he hates his job – he'd rather be a potter, but he has to keep it, because he needs the steady income....

Already compassion comes, and understanding. Then I would pray blessing on the man. Also binding fear, hopelessness, disappointment, sickness.... And loosing joy, health, purpose, energy.... I would ask God for some words to encourage him with, and I'd look for an opportunity to bless him practically. Then I'd keep praying and wait and see what God will do!

Nice and neat, which of course it isn't always! And when we hear God we do so by faith. What we hear needs testing, and we are called to always act in kindness and gentleness towards people.

Let's step into this (again) this January. We'd love to hear any stories.

S&A Crawley