

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Speaker:** Sean & Liz Green

**Title:** Sabbatical Feedback

**Passage:** -

**3 reflections of Sean's sabbatical**

**The Garden of our heart - FAITH**

- 'Without faith it is impossible to please God' Heb 11v6
- Gardens grow stuff: plantings of faith and 'weeds of doubt' (the serpent lies)
- But we don't have to garden on your own.

What areas of your garden are in bloom? (Are they faith plantings / weeds)

**The Garden of our heart - FAMILY**

- 'As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD' Josh 24v15
- Cultivating healthy family relationships can be tricky, but God's grace is sufficient.
- Few of us have all the tools, but we can learn as we include one another.

Who are you including? What are you learning?

**The Garden of our heart - FUTURE**

- 'For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain'. Phil 1v21
- It's good to sit on our bench, gaze at our headstone, knowing one day we will 'Rest In Peace'
- On that day, will we be sweet / ready / Glad / in community?

Because of that future day, what can you be planting, pruning, clearing in your garden?

**3 reflections of Liz's sabbatical**

**Reaffirmed confidence and delight in God's word.**

- The bible as a gift to us to reveal WHO God is.
- Trustworthiness and authority of scripture

What tools do you use/How do you engage with reading God's word?

**Reassessed the cost of following Jesus.**

- Jesus wants all of us. Luke 14:33 'So therefore, anyone of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple'
- Key to giving him everything is knowing him.
- 'Those who know your name put their trust in you' Ps 9:10

What have you recently discovered/rediscovered about Jesus? How has it helped you trust him?

**Reflected on call to holy living.**

- God wants a people to obey him and live faithfully according to his will.
- 'It is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil' 1 Peter 3:17 (Paraphrase: It is better to suffer than to sin)
- Sometimes following Christ involves the suffering of self denial/unfulfilled desires if having those things would cause us to sin (through disobedience, against God's word etc.)

Where is God calling you/where has God called you to deny your own desires in order to serve or honour him?