

Seriously Serious or Vaguely Interested **2nd May - Pastor Tony Higginson**

Introduction (spoken at the Dream Centre)

It would seem that in many spheres of life you find two types of people, one being the serious, the other being the interested. When you go shopping during the sales you find that there are those who just browse away all day long and are happy to do so, followed by those who are prepared to camp out in the cold in the hope that a specific bargain can be obtained. How many of you understand that to camp out in the cold you are on a mission? A mission where you say to yourself, 'I am not coming back without that which I went out for.' Shopping, for me, is like I am on some kind of special ops mission, in that I don't want to look around and dream of entering an imagined fictitious world of Que Sera, Sera which says if money was no objective I would buy. To live in this dream world is to think '*what will be, will be: Que Sera, Sera.*' I am an in-and-out mission accomplished kind of guy, but Carol, she likes to look and get a feel for the place, like we are first time buyers looking to buy the mall. Joking apart, how many of you understand that there is a time for both. Ecclesiastes so eloquently teaches us that there is a time for gathering and scattering, a time for mourning and a time for laughing and so on. Not only are seriously serious and vaguely interested two opposites of each other, not only are they seasonable or circumstantial, but more importantly, they are key attitudes that each of us carry within us.

1. *How many of you know that within you there is a **manana** attitude, a tendency to say 'tomorrow will do'?*
2. *How many of you know that within you there is a **Que, Sera, Sera** attitude which says 'whatever will be will be'?*
3. *How many of you know that within you there is a **Chill out dude** attitude which is a 10 mile an hour life pace attitude?*

All the way through scripture you see the seriously serious and the vaguely interested being highlighted and challenged. When I closed the meeting two weeks ago, this particular phrase came out of my mouth and as it did, I realised that prophetically God had released a countdown of a prophetic clock over us, in that which God is about to do. Whenever God speaks he is always seriously serious about that which he says.

Do you think that God is seriously serious or vaguely interested in the scriptures below?

*So as the Holy Ghost says; "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion during the times of testing in the desert where your fathers tried and tested me." **Hebrews 3:7***

"I call heaven and earth as a witness today against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing therefore choose life that both you and your descendants may live." **Deuteronomy 30:19**

Dr Lonny Bingle's words spoken last week at the dream centre: Last week Pastor Lonny shared with us the principles of living with an open gate over our lives. Every scripture that I had used in declaring to you that a new Dawn was arising he used. Every scripture I used in declaring the new name of the Dream Centre he used with the exception of the book of **Daniel 2:19** and why? Because God is very serious about what he is about to do with our lives and with this community. Lonny has partnered with us and God for this region and sowed the word accordingly.

Wednesday night I had him speak to the leaders and he shared some stuff, which he says that God had him specifically say and do only once in his entire ministry. He didn't know we had originally prophesied to the four walls, but prophetically he did something that will instantaneously have a significant impact on our future.

John 3:1-9 Read: Jesus was carrying a message and Nicodemus had been around a long time, just like many of us have, but it was this message that challenged Nicodemus to get seriously serious about Jesus.

1. Jesus was saying something that challenged Nicodemus' theology, his mind had to be opened. (*This is why as a pastor I feel it necessary to go to Malaysia*)
2. Jesus was saying things that made Nicodemus think 'if I accept this my life is going to change.' (*If we have a life changing message then I expect your life to be changed whilst I am speaking*)
3. Nicodemus knew he couldn't play church the same way after he received this message, for things were going to have to change. (*If your life is not changing as you hear the word spoken, may I suggest that you may have a church life instead of a developed God life and there is a difference*)
4. Nicodemus knew that hearing this message was a privilege, a privilege that others were not getting and because of this, it demanded he become seriously serious.

John 19:38-42 *"Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews, with Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus the man who earlier visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of Myrrh and aloes, about seventy five pounds. Taking the body the two of them wrapped it with spices in strips of linen, this was in accordance with Jewish burial customs."*

Nicodemus' seriously serious attitude

1. Despite fear of a Jewish uprising, he chose to partner with Joseph of Arimathea in the same common cause.
2. Nicodemus was ready to sacrifice his personal resources for the good of a greater cause.
3. Nicodemus was willing to get his personal hands dirty and carry the weight that so often goes with following a common cause, for he not only wrapped Jesus in cloth and covered him with spices, but carried his body out to the tomb.

A Split decision

Matt 25:1-13 *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were seriously wise, and five were vaguely interested and foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the seriously serious wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."*

Breakdown of this story

1. They all (each) have received the God given equipment for producing sufficient light for their path, none of them are with lack.
2. They all have the same cause, that of meeting the bridegroom.
3. A distinction within the crowd is now felt, as five were seriously serious and five are seen to be vaguely foolishly interested.
4. Five take a hold of their gathered filled oil vessels as they had heard a prophetic declaration declared to them since January 2010
5. Whilst the bridegroom was delayed, the interested decided to pull back to living a life of mediocrity. They didn't listen, watch, or work, they pulled back from their journey of meeting the bridegroom, but yet they kept coming to church.
6. The vaguely interested heard that Christ was moving in their midst and now they begin to panic, asking those with sufficient oil to give them some, so

that they can receive what others, in God, are receiving. They go to a conference, attend another church, buy a Christian book, listen to the latest preacher, hoping to learn and receive what the seriously serious received, but to no avail.

7. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the son of man is coming. Though this is speaking of Christ returning for the global church, there is something here for us, in that we here have a keen sense that he is coming to Tameside and that a new Dawn is arising.