

LIVING IN THE HOUSE OF MERCY AND NOT THE HOUSE OF JUDGEMENT

(Notes by Dave Webb-Peploe)

INTRODUCTION

A powerful and prophetic visit from Adrian Horner and his team on Sunday evening was accompanied by a powerful message on living in the house of mercy not the house of judgement. The challenge that arose for me and I guess many of us was does my behaviour and especially the way I treat others come out of a failure to fully understand that we are no longer in God's house of judgement but fully paid up members (through Christ) of his house of mercy.

The story of the woman with the constant flow of blood was used by Adrian to illustrate the contrast between the two houses and I think it would be helpful to explore this further in our small groups together.

Read Luke 8:43-48

⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." (NIV)

LIVING IN THE HOUSE OF JUDGEMENT

- Can you remember a time when you felt isolated, alone or under judgement by others?
- In what ways was this woman 'under judgement' by the local community and the religious law of the day?
- What effects would this judgement have had upon her life?
- '*The world is under the judgement of God*'. (John 12:31)
Why should this be and why should he not just show mercy to everyone?
- The woman did everything she could to avoid being unclean and every quack remedy would have been tried. In what ways do those under judgement nowadays seek to escape this reality?
- Adrian suggested that if we feel under judgement we can tend to try and escape this by judging others. Do you agree with this and if so can you describe a time when you've seen it in yourself

LIVING IN THE HOUSE OF MERCY

- When Jesus stopped how must the woman have felt and what sort of response might she have been expecting?
- When you reach out to Jesus what sort of response do you expect?
How does he frequently surprise us?
- What are some of the challenges that you face in the coming week to increasingly show mercy rather than judgement?

SUMMARY

Spend some time praying for each other to understand, experience and show mercy as we increasingly understand in which house we live.