

Preaching Dates

16 March 2019

Charles Sommerville, (pm) at Prophetic Witness Movement International at Cleland Baptist Church

17 March 2019

Glen Cartwright (am) at Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church, Glasgow

Andrew Chalkley (am) at

Campbeltown Community Church

Brian Crockett (am) at Vale of Leven Baptist Church in Alexandria,

Gordon Dickey (am) at Hawick Baptist Church

Bill Duffy (am) at Galashiels Baptist Church

Jonathan Groves (am) at Banchory Christian Fellowship with Kerusso Trust presentation.

Alistair Mackay (am) at the 'Granary', at McCarthy Stone facility in Dumfries

Phill March (am) at

Clydebank Central Methodist Church

Charles Sommerville (am) at Keltie Evangelical Church, Fife

Andrew Swanson (am) at Cambuslang Baptist Church

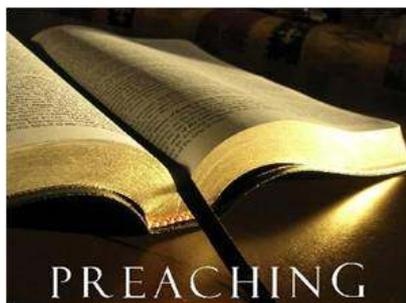
George Thomson (am) at Wishaw Baptist Church

John Bingham (am + pm) at Olivet Evangelical Church, Falkirk

Stephen Ilett (am + pm) at Alness Baptist Church

Monday 18th March 2019

Hazel Brooks (pm) at Trinity Parish Church, Larkhall



"Don't Judge Others"

By Dawn Martindale

Facebook is rather full of memes these days. Usually I ignore these, but recently one caught my eye. It actually came up in my memories because I had shared it some years earlier. It had impacted me then and it still did. It said this 'don't judge someone because they sin differently from you'. The meme reminded me of the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14.

In the parable the Pharisee prays a prayer thanking God that he does not sin like many of the other people that he sees around him - and he includes the tax collector in that. He was rather confident of his own 'goodness'. In Judaism, to be just and right was to follow the laws in the Pentateuch as closely and perfectly as possible. The Pharisee thought he was doing that extremely well (rather proudly) and so focused his prayer on those others that he 'thought' were not and ignored his own heart and actions. But the tax collector was not busy thinking about other people: Instead he searched his own heart and prayed 'God, have mercy on *me*, a sinner', and it was he who did the right thing.

How often do we find ourselves thinking of how others need to change rather than ourselves? I know that I've occasionally found myself sitting in a sermon thinking something along the lines of 'I hope that person over there is listening because they so need to hear this right now!' We can find ourselves thinking like the Pharisee in the parable and wishing and praying that others would think and act differently. Rather than being concerned about others in the church we need to let the Holy Spirit work in their lives in the way, and in the timing, that God knows is right for them. We need to let go and let God do the judging and be like the tax collector. We need to always have our own hearts open before God. We can change ourselves but trying to change others rather than ourselves has the tendency to end in disaster.

All the other Christians around us are saved by faith in Jesus as the once-for-all sacrifice. They are not saved by any other actions or beliefs. So even if we think someone else is fundamentally wrong about a minor doctrine or way of acting, then it's none of our business. (And we might even be the one in the wrong!) Let's pray instead for God to reveal the parts of our hearts, as individuals, that we need healed; and not spend time judging other Christians because they 'sin differently than us.'