

Minister : Mark Stevens:

Tel : 8370 6006

Tel: 0432 681257

Email: mark@happyvalleychurchofchrist.org.au

Blog: www.revdmarkstevens.blogspot.com.

Mark's day off is Monday : Please contact one of the Elders if you have a Pastoral need.

Church Office:

Tel: 8370 6006

Email: admin@happyvalleychurchofchrist.org.au

Website: www.happyvalleychurchofchrist.org.au

+++++++

ELDERS:

Andrew Bowden

James Bowden

Roz Park

Juanita McCallum

Jill Richardson

Janet Riessen

+++++++

FAMILY WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE: 9.30am Sunday

OFFERING: 151109: \$ 1214.00

GRAPEVINE EDITOR'S: Janet and Des Riessen Tel: 83882002
Email: coobarie@bigpond.com

GRAPEVINE DEADLINE: Thursday at noon

Who is leading Worship on

29th Nov 2009

SERVICE PREP:

A Bowden

WORSHIP LEADER:

T Anderson

MUSIC:

B Long

PROJECTION:

D Stevens

CHURCH PRAYER:

READING:

D Tapp

COMMUNION PREP:

Wilkinson

SERVERS:

K & D Bowden

TEA & COFFEE:

W Thomas, J Fuller

SOUND:

Holmesby

GREETER:

Megson

FLOWERS:

M Megson

OFFERING:

A & J Wilson

CLEANING:

Megson, Anson

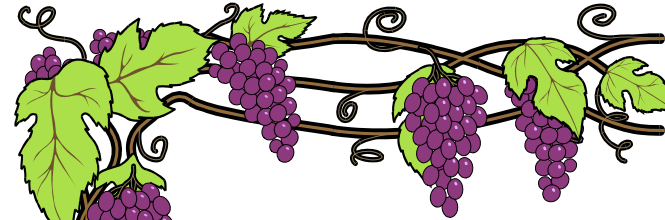
SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Rohan & Mary

THE GRAPEVINE

22nd Nov '09

HAPPY VALLEY



From Worth-less to Worth-while

On my travels through the hills to Mt Barker, I pass several farm gates with a half a dozen bags on display with a sign advertising them for sale at \$2 per bag.

In the context of Australia's Gross National Product, animal waste counts for nothing – it is worthless material. However, the farmers realise the value of manure as an ideal fertilizer for our gardens and so they sell it cheaply at a couple of dollars per bag. In poor third world countries, manure is a valued commodity for it is a source fuel for cooking, or it might serve as a insulating building material in a mud hut to protect a family from the cold.

As I read the stories of Jesus, I meet someone who saw value amid what others consider waste material. In the context of society at the time of Jesus, a widow or a little child, a leper or someone who was blind were people whom society had written off as 'waste'. They were regarded as people of no value to society or before God. And yet it was these very people that Jesus sought out offering them hope, acceptance and the blessing of God's love and grace. For many, his acceptance of them became a source of healing and new life [some examples: the widow and dead child [Matt 9:18f], the Samaritan leper [Luke 17:15]; the blind man [Matt9:27f].

Whilst we may think that our world has come along way since then, how often do we hear of people being treated as 'worthless'? A child being abused in prostitution by western travellers in the Philippines; a women working in a sweat shops to make designer clothing or footwear to be sold for high profits in affluent Western countries under the guise of 'free trade'. Whether it be the lack of compassion for refugees or an attitude of prejudice towards Aboriginal people, so there are people today who are being treated by others as 'worthless'.

The Christian message is that no one is 'worthless'. Christ reached out to embrace all people of all races, dying for the sins of all, so that we might say everyone is 'worth-while'. For us as we ponder the cross, we see ourselves as people of worth, and likewise, when we look to others, we see that they too are of equal worth in the sight of God.

May the faith we have in Jesus be translated in the responses we demonstrate toward others.

Shalom

Keith