

# What can I give Him....

new Café Church sermon series

Sun 17th Jan  
Sun 24th Jan  
Sun 31st Jan  
Sun 7th Feb  
at 7pm

1. my money
2. my gifts
3. my personality
4. my life

## Session 3 What Can I give Him?.... my abilities and personality

### Welcome:

#### *Opening Question(s)*

Pick one or two of the following questions and o around the group and get each member to answer

- What kind of social gathering or party do you like best? (For example, pub, sport, leisure, club, and so on)
- Name three kinds of work you would like to do
- What do you most enjoy in your spare time?
- You have just been selected captain of your team. What sport would it be?

How you answer these questions may be an indicator of your abilities and personality

### Worship

- I wonder how many of thank God for making them the way they are
- Read Psalm 139:13-16 (or the whole Psalm if you prefer)
- Spend some time reflecting on this passage
- Give thanks that God made us the way we are

### Word

- The series we are looking at currently is "What can I give him (God)"
- If we know who we are... then we know what we can give back to God
- Last week... we looked at our Spiritual gifts... given by God
- And touched on our passion... what is on our heart
- If you have read "Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren... you will know that it is about discovering our SHAPE – Spiritual Gifts, Heart (Passion), Abilities, Personality and Experience
- Next week we will look at our Experiences... today Abilities and Personality
- Give each person a piece of paper and a pen

- Get them to write their name (as they would normally with their normal hand)
- Then get them to write their name with their other hand
- What happened?
- *It felt uncomfortable... it took longer... had to really concentrate... isn't as neat*
- This can be applied to all of our shape
- If we haven't got certain spiritual gifts... we might struggle to do certain roles
- If we haven't got a heart for children... we are going to struggle to work with them
- *Not sure why people don't have a heart to encouraging the future generation... but...*
- If we haven't got music abilities... we are going to feel uncomfortable in the music group
- *You might want to give a personal example here. Mine would be*
  - Despite my name (Andy Williams)... I can't sing very well... and I would feel uncomfortable in the music group... and so would you
- So there are certain things that we feel comfortable with... and some that we feel uncomfortable with
- But what I also want to stress... before going on to today's two topics
- Is that sometimes we have to do things outside our comfort zones
- E.g. crèche... evangelism

### **Abilities**

- One of the most common reasons people give for not getting involved in ministry is, "I just don't have any abilities to offer."
- Nothing could be further from the truth
- The key is *matching* your abilities with the right ministry!
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:6
  - <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.
- We all have abilities
- Abilities without God are just **TALENTS**
- Abilities with God are **OPPORTUNITIES** for ministry
- Recap some of the passages that were looked at last week
  - 1 Corinthians 12:8-10
  - Romans 12:6-8
  - Ephesians 4:11
  - Also abilities and skills used in making the Tabernacle (Exodus 31:1-11 and preceding chapters)...
  - And building the Temple (2 Chronicles 2:13f)
- Give copies of the following list to each member.
- Encourage them to take 5 minutes to have a look through them and see if any resonate with them. What would they say are their abilities

## **DISCOVERING YOUR ABILITIES**

1. Look over the list of abilities below and see if there are any that when you read it, you think, "That's me".
2. Is there anything that links with what you are passionate about?

### **28 SPECIALIZED ABILITIES**

- **ENTERTAINING ABILITY:** to perform, act, dance, speak, magic.
- **RECRUITING ABILITY:** to enlist and motivate people to get involved.

- **INTERVIEWING ABILITY:** to discover what others are really like.
- **RESEARCHING ABILITY:** to read, gather information, collect data.
- **ARTISTIC ABILITY:** to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, or photograph.
- **GRAPHICS ABILITY:** to lay out, design, create visual displays, or banners.
- **EVALUATING ABILITY:** to analyze data and draw conclusions.
- **PLANNING ABILITY:** to strategize, design and organize programs and events.
- **MANAGING ABILITY:** to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved.
- **COUNSELING ABILITY:** to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity.
- **TEACHING ABILITY:** to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor.
- **WRITING ABILITY:** to write articles, letters, books.
- **EDITING ABILITY:** to proofread or rewrite.
- **PROMOTING ABILITY:** to advertise or promote events and activities.
- **REPAIRING ABILITY:** to fix, restore, maintain.
- **FEEDING ABILITY:** to create meals for large or small groups.
- **RECALL ABILITY:** to remember or recall names and faces.
- **MECHANICAL OPERATING ABILITY:** to operate equipment, tools or machinery.
- **RESOURCEFUL ABILITY:** to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed.
- **COUNTING ABILITY:** to work with numbers, data, or money.
- **CLASSIFYING ABILITY:** to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily.
- **PUBLIC RELATIONS ABILITY:** to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy.
- **WELCOMING ABILITY:** to convey warmth, develop rapport with others easily, making others feel comfortable.
- **COMPOSING ABILITY:** to write music or lyrics.
- **LANDSCAPING ABILITY:** to do gardening and work with plants.

- **ARTS AND CRAFTS AND DECORATING ABILITY:** to beautify a setting for a special event.
- **MUSICAL ABILITY:** to lead the church family either vocally or instrumentally.
- **OTHER**

### Personality

- Next, we are going to look our personality
- Despite any generalisations I might... and you might... want to make
- We must remember that there is no right or wrong personality
- If we like being on our own... find it relaxing... then we are going to find lots of people difficult
- That isn't because we are "Billy no mates"
- It is because we are wired that way... it is part of our personality
- As in Psalm 139:13-16
- God made us and created us
- And he made us and created us differently
- No one here is the same as anyone else
- Look at your fingerprint on your little finger
- That is unique to you... no one else has one identical...
- It is even unique to that finger... all your other fingers have different fingerprints
- Your DNA is so unique that it is used to identify perpetrators / criminals
- God did not make us all the same... he gave us different personalities
- Personality is different to attitude
- Personality is difficult to change... but you can be aware of it and adapt a little in some situations
  - *I'm an introvert... so sometimes have to work hard at meeting people*
- However, your attitude can be changed over time
- There is no right or wrong personality, but there is a right or wrong attitude
- People who are outgoing are still outgoing when they become Christians
- However, their attitude may have to change... to a Christ attitude
- Read Galatians 1:13-14
  - <sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.
- Once Paul decided to follow Jesus his attitude changed... his life changed... and his purposes changed
- But he was still very committed and zealous... but now he preached about Christ rather than persecuting the church
- Today... we are going to ask you to consider just four aspects of your personality: -
  1. How am I around other people
  2. How do I make my decisions
  3. How am I in my relationships
  4. How am I in my use of time
- There are some sheets to work through (see below at the end of these notes)

### **1. How I am around other people (my preference for 'people interaction')**

## Around others I am more: **Reserved or Outgoing**

[Now, there will be times when you switch back and forth between reserved and outgoing but you usually have a preferred style where you feel most comfortable.]

### **Outgoing:** stereotypical descriptions

- social and energized by people
- lonely when they're not with people
- love parties--usually the last to leave
- easily connect with strangers
- has lots of relationships

### **Reserved:** stereotypical descriptions

- drained by people
- not bothered being alone
- likes solo activities: reading, few people
- energized when they are alone
- enjoys others but they're drained afterwards
- limited number of relationships

## **2. How I make my decisions (my preference for 'decision making')**

My decisions are based more on: **Facts/thinking or Feelings**

### **Facts:** stereotypical descriptions

- likes facts, trust facts
- rooted in reality
- appreciates past experience
- notices the details
- wants what's actual... "give me the facts"
- practical

### **Feelings:** stereotypical descriptions

- scan, glance, miss details because heads in clouds
- futuristic thinking
- don't care about past, wants to know what's ahead
- forward thinking anticipates the future
- great imagination
- loves to speculate and go on hunches
- doesn't care what's practical

## **3. How I am in my relationships (my preference for 'relating to others')**

In my relationships I tend to be more:  
**Dependent on others or Independent**

### **Dependent:** stereotypical descriptions

- needs people
- high expectations of others
- rely on people to be there during tough times
- need others to validate me
- need to talk feelings out
- external

### **Independent:** stereotypical descriptions

- doesn't need others
- low expectations of others
- rely on self to get through tough times
- seek validation from self
- figure out my own feelings
- internal

## 4. How I am in my use of time (my preference for 'use of time')

My use of time is more:

### **Determined or Spontaneous**

**Determined:** stereotypical descriptions

- fixed
- organized
- plan ahead
- closure
- deadlines

**Spontaneous:** stereotypical descriptions

- flexible
- adapt as you go
- open ended
- what deadline?
- plenty of time ... what's the rush

## **Witness**

- If we decide to follow Jesus then there may be some things that God calls us to do
- To help us know what some of those things are... we need to look at what might help us understand and know what they are
- If we are quiet people... then the evangelism that God wants us to do is not going to be standing on the street corners telling everybody that God love's them
- That will be for the outgoing people
- Otherwise... if we try and tell people about Jesus in a way that does not suit our personality... then it will feel uncomfortable... like writing with our wrong hand... and we won't do it
- Hopefully, by the end of next week ... we will know more about ourselves and more about how we can serve God and others (and maybe how we might be able to tell others about Jesus)
- **Remember:** The right personality is YOUR PERSONALITY  
The right abilities are your abilities  
The right Spiritual gifts are your Spiritual Gifts
- Importance isn't based around your personality... abilities... or gifts
- It is what you do with them that is important
  
- If you have time, you may want to make to make a list together of all the ministries, organisations and jobs in the church (however small) and write them down. (Have a look at the beginning of the St John's Church Directory)
- Are there any areas that would suit your gifts, heart, abilities or personality
- Sometimes, the danger with "going to church" is that it becomes something that we fit in with everything else (e.g. "going to work", "going to the shops", etc)
- Then, giving of our time fits around everything else rather than it coming from our passions (heart)
- But remember, sometimes we have to give from outside our comfort zones and passions

## **Next Week**

The Series '*What can I give him?*' continues by considering how we might give not just our money, time, gifts and personality to God, but our experiences and life as well.

*Andy Williams January 2010*

# PERSONALITY

In my  
relationships I  
tend to be more:  
DEPENDENT ON  
OTHERS  
or  
INDEPENDENT

My decisions are  
based more on:  
THINKING  
or  
FEELINGS

Around others  
I am more:  
RESERVED  
or  
OUTGOING

My use of time is more:  
DETERMINED or SPONTANEOUS