

## Connect Group notes 8 April 2024

Don began a new series on Sunday called 'Biblical Birdwatching'. He began with The Raven.

He said that Jesus tells us to be bird watchers and to let them tell us what's going on ...

Martin Luther encouraged "Let birds be our theologians"

Birds can teach us lessons about discipleship...

Read Luke 12:24 NLT – "Look at the ravens. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds"

1. Don's first point centered around the fact that Jesus forbade *worry* not forethought -
  - What is the difference between planning well for our future and being anxious about it?
  - Why should we plan wisely but not worry?
  - Can we differentiate between worry and pathological anxiety?
  - How do we balance trusting God with being prudent and wise? (*writing our plans in pencil*)
  
2. Don commented that having faith and trust does not exclude the use of means available to us – God has given us both creativity and resources.

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10b "...those unwilling to work will not get to eat"

  - Why is important to work for what we have? How might this grow the fruits of the Spirit in us?
  - How might this change how we view our work?
  - How do we know if we're relying more on our means than on God?

- Discuss the reasons why we/others might be tempted to rely on 'faith' for provision, rather than working.

### 3. Faith doesn't offer immunity from 'life'

- How can teaching that faith is a magic panacea against life be destructive or confusing?
- Have we experienced times in our lives where our faith has been tested due to a belief that as Christians we wouldn't feel the impact of life?
- Read Matthew 10:29 about God's promise that none falls without His presence – how does this reassure us about the providence of God in all circumstances?