

## Sermon Notes Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### The Divine Exchange – Turning Ashes into something Beautiful

God takes lives and changes them. He takes the remains of what we have left, like when a fire has gone out and all we have is ashes. He makes them beautiful. A miracle happens. A Divine Exchange! He exchanges our worthless lives and makes them whole. Just like the leper. He gave beauty for Ashes. Because he is compassionate.

Read Mark 1:4-45

Other texts to read: Isaiah 6: 1-3, Luke 4:14-21, Zechariah 1:16, Psalm 103:7-8

1. Describe the 'Divine Exchange' as seen in Ps 103:1-5
2. Compare Isaiah 61:1-3 with Luke 4: 14-21
3. How would you describe beauty for ashes – the 'Divine Exchange' God takes that which is worthless, the remains of something, and replaces it with something beautiful. God takes the hopeless and makes it hopeful....
4. What characters in the Old Testament can you think of where God takes Ashes and Exchanges them?
5. In Mark, Jesus comes to the leper – He is moved with compassion. Compare this story with: Matthew 14:14, 15:12, 20:34, Mark 6:34, 8:2, Romans 9:15 and James 5:11 What Patterns can you see?
6. In Luke 4 Jesus (quoting Isaiah 61:1-3) said 'Today this scripture is fulfilled.' How did Isaiah become fulfilled for the leper?
7. The nature of Jesus reflects God – Compassionate and taking worthless lives. Discuss.
8. How do you feel about what you have heard from the Bible?  
How does it make you feel about approaching God?  
What are you doing with your Ashes?

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