

How do we measure the success of a Simple Church?

- How do we measure God's eternal work and Kingdom growth? Unless we have God's eyesight or a spiritual x-ray machine it is fraught with danger!
- Every visible indicator is deceptive, be it numbers, longevity, budget, activities... God looks at the heart... people may be coming or giving a lot of money to earn salvation or impress others! A church can last longer than God's good purposes! Some activities may be good ideas sapping energy and time from what God wants to do!
- Caesar Kalinowski (*'Life Navigated'* website) dares us to measure Jesus' ministry in the visible terms described in the previous point, then reflect on them.
- Consider the sky-scraper... A lot goes on underneath before something is visible! Consider the carrot... A luscious top doesn't mean a big healthy carrot! Success is mostly what is hard to see.
- Some things to try and discern... maturing disciples doing radical, sacrificial, loving things for the Kingdom, the number of seeds being sown at God's direction, the number of God pointing conversations led by the Spirit, God gifts in people being released and used, God touching people and adding them to the fellowship, moments of captivating worship or prayer, actions of flowing generosity, etc.
- Always remember that it is God who does the growing (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). We are called to sow, water and provide a growing environment. Not only does God do the growing but He produces the fruit (John 15:1-8). Also remember, that because of His love and free will, people can choose not to co-operate.

A Question...

What success (i.e. God at work), do you discern in your Simple Church?