

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 22nd March 2015

LENT V : EVERYONE

As We Gather

It was not unusual for foreigners to be in Jerusalem at the time of the Passover. Greeks were known to be seekers after truth, so it would not have been surprising that they should wish to speak with Jesus. Their request could be seen as a first hint of a gospel (good news) for the whole world.

Reading Scripture JOHN 12 : 20 – 33

Thinking together

In response to the Greek meeting, the central theme of Jesus' message / teaching was the Glory of God (John 12:23 + 28).

Jesus brought a new view of life to those who heard Him, and He used the image of a seed to illustrate the spiritual truth that there can be

- no glory without suffering
- no fruitful life without death of self
- no victory without surrender [Romans 6 Galatians 2:20]

Who controls your life – Christ or you? (John 12-26) Discuss

The Cross is at the heart of the church's mission and message to draw people to Jesus [Matthew 28:19-20]. His sacrificial love breaks the power of evil (John 12:32-33), and enables us to resist and overcome Satan's temptations.

What prevents us from losing our way spiritually? Discuss

[Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:7-19]

Jesus the man, dreaded the death which lay ahead (John 12:27), yet He had no doubt about what He was going to do.

What changed fear into triumph? (John 12:28) Discuss

[see also Matthew 3:17 & 17:5]

There was a time when the Jews believed that God spoke directly to man [1Samual 3:1-14 1 Kings 19:1-18 Job 4:16], but by the time of Jesus they no longer believed this.

With Jesus the voice of God comes to those who believe. Our problem is not that God does not speak, but that we do not listen enough (John12:29-30). God always responds to obedience.

Have you ever felt that God does not hear your prayers? Discuss

[see also Philipians 2:5-11 Romans 8:29 Romans 12:2]

In Closing

Just as He challenged those to whom He spoke, Jesus challenges us today to choose between

- loneliness or fruitfulness
- losing life or keeping life
- serving self or serving Christ
- pleasing self or pleasing God

what is your response? (John 12:27-28a)

PRAYER

God of suffering and glory, in Jesus Christ you reveal the way of life through the path of obedience.

Inscribe your law in our hearts that we might not stray from you, but remain your faithful people through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HOME GROUP NOTES WILL BE AVAILABLE AGAIN FROM SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2015