



Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

Spring 2019 "Talking Jesus"

Week beginning 20th January 2019

1 John 5 – A Story Rooted in Jesus

- **Introduction**

There is a story of a child at Sunday school who has asked a question about a picture of a donkey and replied "it sure looks like a donkey but the answer's got to be Jesus". Similarly, a piece of graffiti once said "Jesus is the answer" and someone else added "Yes, but what's the question?" All we say and do needs to be rooted in Jesus, the man who was totally human and totally God, who said he was "the Way, the Truth and the Life".

- **Welcome**

What is the most perfect thing you've ever seen??

- **Worship**

Read John 14:1-6. Jesus promises hope in a hopeless world for both the world to come and our journey towards it in this life. In what way is Jesus the way, the truth and the life in your own journey? Share some thoughts and worship him.

- **Word**

In John 14:6, Jesus makes a claim that is either totally true or exposes him as the biggest fraud in history. He says he is **THE** way to God, he is **THE** total and utter truth and he is **THE** only source of life itself. In order to move forward as Christians, we need a growing acceptance that Jesus is who he says he is.

First of all, what if we are wrong

- ❖ **What does the world look like if Jesus is not the only way to God?** what does that say about his claim to be the Son of God? What does it say about his death on the Cross? What does it say about the claims the New Testament writers make about him?
- ❖ **What does the world look like if Jesus is not Truth personified?** What does it say about the statements he made about himself? What happens if we start to doubt him and his promises?
- ❖ **What does the world look like if Jesus is not the source of Life?** Where else could we possibly find life? What does it say about the resurrection?

The only conclusion is that the question is black and white. We either accept Jesus as he is or we reject him completely. He never claimed to be "just" a good bloke who taught nice things - he is either who he says he is or a complete fraud and a liar (or totally mad). You choose.

Read 1John 5:1-13. Taking the discussion you've just had, ask yourselves about what this passage means if Jesus is a fraud ...

- Verse 1 - it means we are not children of God so we cannot have a relationship with him.
- Verse 5 - if Jesus is not the Son of God, then the world (ie evil) has not been overcome.
- What others can you see?

BUT!!!! As Christians, we DO believe these things!

- ✓ Verse 1 - Jesus IS the Son of God and we are his Children.
- ✓ Verse 3 - We show our love for God in the obedience of Love.
- ✓ Verse 5 - Jesus HAS overcome evil and it means we can, too.
- ✓ Verse 7 - We know these things are true through the testimony of the Spirit in our lives.

- ✓ Verse 11 - We have the promise of life for ever - and God keeps his promises!
- ✓ Verse 12 - We have life (in abundance) in this life in Jesus THE Life.

Paul sums it up in verse 13 - "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

The conclusion this brings us to is that Jesus Christ changes lives and is the root of our Story.

Our lives will never be the same again after we have encountered Jesus. We may take time to believe and grow in our faith and that is perfectly good, because we have a whole lifetime to experience him. But if we try to pick and choose which of the bits of Jesus we believe in then the basis of our faith crumbles away.

- **Works**

At the start of our series on Talking Jesus and the ideas it challenges us with, the three studies so far make a clear statement about the Christian faith ... God has a plan for your life and mine which is not a cold piece of paper in a file, but a warm, living relationship close to his heart. That plan, that story, is interwoven with the whole of history and the understanding of salvation. And if we want to know him and experience his plan for us, we need to embrace Jesus not only at the core of our lives but at the core of history itself.

The last paragraph is a bold and challenging statement - some may agree and some may find it hard to accept or disagree. Be bold in the group and talk about these things! What do YOU think? Share your doubts, your fears, your encouragements and your hopes. And one thing to remember - Jesus never told off Thomas for doubting the resurrection, he only encouraged him to believe!!

Spend some time in prayer for each other and ask God to speak into the silence with pictures, words or verses for each other, to encourage and challenge you as a group and as individuals, and us all as a Church for the year ahead.

- **In The Coming Week ...**

Pray that you will be open to what God is wanting for you ...

- ✓ Open ears ... to hear what he is saying to you.
- ✓ Open eyes ... to see what he is showing you.
- ✓ Open heart ... to receive what he wants to give to you.
- ✓ Open lives ... ready to respond and go as he leads you ... wherever it may take you.
- ✓ Keep in step with the Spirit!
- ✓ Ask God to talk to you about his - and your - story.
- ✓ Ask Jesus to be at the heart of the story of your life.