

30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 10.30 am.

(PP1) The Jesus we never knew x18.

Jesus and the Spirit. **ACTS 1: 1 – 5. (PP2)** also John 4: 1 – 42 and 7: 37 – 39.

**Last week we began looking at “Jesus and the Spirit” – even holding these 2 names together helps us to see and experience the real Jesus.** An appropriate part of our discussions about seeking to discover, know and then pass on the real Jesus.

I said at the beginning of the service: When we gather for worship we are welcomed but we rarely all arrive and start together. We are now physically PRESENT and hopefully our worship has helped us to centre also on Jesus with our mind and our inner spirit. Just hearing Scripture being read should bring us together and it is I hope with a longing to hear from Jesus and the Spirit.

**(PP3) 40 days from resurrection to ascension;** Jesus spent time appearing at intervals and establishing his bodily resurrection – even on occasion eating with his disciples. He talked about the Kingdom of God - no doubt referencing many parables, and teachings (e.g. Sermon on the Mount) that he had spoken to them but also relating the Kingdom of God to the Kingdoms of this world. (E.g. Israel v6)

**It is Luke alone who groups together closely the: -**

- **Resurrection appearances of Jesus and the**
- **Experiences of the Spirit**

I find it hard to think of the Spirit in isolation from Jesus – *the Spirit comes to glorify Jesus, John 16: 14 for* Indeed the Father, the Son and the Spirit are One.

Luke also records that Jesus continues to teach the disciples about the Kingdom of God for 40 days as they wait the coming of the Spirit and the move out in mission and to see the Kingdom come. (He was continuing to open their minds and hearts about God's Kingdom – not imparting some secret knowledge as the Gnostics suggested).

**HENCE the NT understanding and teaching of Jesus about the “Kingdom of God” he introduces is rich with teaching about the Spirit. He introduces an expectancy.**

ACTS 1: v2 says that **this instruction was “by the power of the holy Spirit”** and vv4 & 5 he spoke about the **gift of the Holy Spirit** promised by the Father. *John baptised with water, but in a few days, you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit”.* **(Diver is baptised). Filled with the Spirit (constantly cos I leak) and plunged or baptised into the Spirit – God within and without.**

**HOW do we experience the Holy Spirit?** Individually and in community? Jesus had a strong sense of his Sonship and also the Spirit's anointing. He promises us that as we follow him we too will have an awareness of our identity as true children of God (*Abba*) and the presence of the Spirit within us and upon us. *The chief end of (a person) is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. (Westminster Shorter Catechism).*

**Jesus also spoke of the necessity of our true worship of being “in the Spirit”.**

**(v24) John 4: 1 – 42.** As Jesus encounters the woman at the well we see he is conscious of his power and authority to provide – be the source of “life giving water”. She senses his authority and is amazed that he knows completely about her life. He has the authority of the Spirit and she and then the whole village experience this.

I agree with *James D.G. Dunn (Jesus and the Spirit. Pp87,88. Prof Divinity, Durham)* **that Jesus can be called a charismatic – Pneumatiker-** *“He was charismatic in the sense that he manifested a power and authority which was his own...but which (also) was given him, his virtue of the Spirit/power of God upon him...It came direct from his relation to God, immediately from his insight into God’s will.”*

It is the claim of Jesus to the woman at the well but also again and also in The Temple that those who are **thirsty should come to him and drink of the Spirit.** (*John 7: 37 – 39 READ*). This seventh chapter of John’s Gospel is all about his authority to speak and to teach and make the amazing claims that he does. He is claiming an authority and an ability to prophesy and bring about the release of the Spirit. (Recorded also in *Acts 1: 8* *fo/* where he speaks of a Global movement and mission.) Here we must decide on whether Jesus is mad or that his claims are true.

**“Saviour of the World”, John 4: 42** After Jesus has spent some days with them the people of Sychar declare that ***we believe and we know he really is the Saviour of the World.***

No doubt this is why Jesus was compelled to travel through Samaria. Compelled no doubt by the Spirit – God’s heart that all should believe in Jesus and be saved. It is the heart of God through the Spirit to bear witness to Jesus in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and indeed to the ends of the earth.

This incident of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman – a pagan - as far as the Jews were concerned they wouldn’t even eat from the same bowls and dishes convinces me of the need to call everyone to believe in and follow Jesus – even if they have some religious faith as well as those who have none.

**It is JESUS only and Jesus alone who can draw together different traditions, religions and spiritualities into the Light of God:** East and West, Jew and Samaritan, Muslim and Christian.

- True Worship must be “in the Spirit”, say Jesus. Not at a particular Mountain or Holy Site – not Gerazim, not Jerusalem.
- LOVE of GOD: is to be with heart, soul, mind and strength.

- It is both intellectual and experiential – therefore it is both active and contemplative. (v22 Really knowing God not just knowing about God).
- Worship involves revelation of God, by God – supremely in Jesus. (In this meeting, he declares himself to be the awaited Messiah v25).
- Worship requires me to learn to quieten certain senses so that I am able to listen to God and my inner self (v29 Jesus who knows and tells me anything I have ever done).

It is Jesus who releases the Spirit at Pentecost upon men and women and all nations (enabled because of the will of Father and work of Jesus).

**JESUS alone can be the measure of truth and the measure of the genuineness of faith. Let any or all (whether human or gods) who call for human allegiance or worship stand alongside Jesus and be measured.**

**All will fall short and no one will measure up to Jesus – Saviour of the World.**

He offers the water of the Spirit which can quench the deepest human thirst.