

14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 10.30 am.

(PP1) The Jesus we never knew x20.

**Jesus and the Spirit: the truth about Father God & Jesus. John 16:1-15.**

**Last 3 weeks we have begun looking at “Jesus and the Spirit” – even holding these 2 names together helps us to see and experience the real Jesus. This is an appropriate way of furthering our discussions about seeking to discover, know and then pass on the real Jesus. The Father God, God the Son and God the Spirit do not work in isolation but together.**

**Vv1 – 3. Jesus gives a warning to his followers.** He tells his disciples that he is teaching them and preparing them for some opposition even from the leaders of the Jewish synagogues – local fellowships. He explains that this will happen because these *people have not known either the Father or me*. People can be religious without really knowing or understanding God. In this case, they did not recognise or know who Jesus really was – the Messiah of God. Today we think about the truth about Father God & Jesus. We think about the claim of Jesus that it is *the Spirit who reveals the truth about God.*

**I find it hard anymore to think of the Spirit in isolation from Jesus.** Last week our key verse was – *The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name (Jesus), will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you. John 14: 26.*

Indeed, the Father, the Son and the Spirit are One – as many passages like this show.

**The NT teachings of Jesus about the “Kingdom of God” is also rich with teaching about the Spirit. Jesus introduces an expectancy about the coming and working of the Spirit both in the lives of those who follow Jesus and also in the world with those who don’t yet believe.**

**HOW do we experience the Holy Spirit? Both individually and in community?**

**Firstly,** 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* factor) and also the presence of the Spirit within us and upon us. We are not alone! We are not orphans – the Spirit within us reminds us we have an Abba! The Spirit Paraclete comes when we cry and comforts us.

**Secondly,** we experience the Spirit in our **purpose and priority? Seeking God’s Kingdom and righteousness**. And to do this a person needs to be born of the Spirit and going on being filled with the Spirit.

**Thirdly, both Jesus and the Spirit teach the Disciples of Jesus and the Spirit continues to teach us and to remind us of all that Jesus taught.** (*John 6:59; 7: 14 & 28; 8:20 & of course 14: 26.*)

**Fourthly, John is explicit that the Spirit is the OTHER PARACLETE.** (Jesus is the first paraclete – 1 John 2: 1) Jesus is emphasizing to his Disciples that he is leaving but they are not alone. In his physical absence, they have the presence of the Spirit who is another Paraclete – like him. The name “Spirit” implies movement (wind/ breath) and inner enthusiasm but the name **Paraclete takes away the anguish of loneliness: she brings presence, peace, security and communion.** (p260)

*The word “paraclete” is one of those rich Greek words that are difficult to translate completely. (Jean Vanier: “Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John”).*

*The Paraclete is given to those who are lonely and need the presence of a friend, to those who are lost and poor in spirit and who cry out to God.*

Today, an extension of how we experience the Spirit (point 3) is that **“The Spirit reveals the truth about God”** BOTH to us who have begun to discover and know God BUT ALSO TO THE WORLD WHO DOES NOT YET KNOW THE TRUTH.

**John chapters 14 – 16** group together some of the Jesus teaching on the person and work of the Spirit.

*14:17 He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him, but he remains with you and is in you. (Be confident – not cocky about this. As a child of God, the Spirit is at work in you).*

*16:13 When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth.*

*15:26 The Helper will come – the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God and who comes from the Father. I will send him to you from the Father and he will speak about me. And you too will speak about me, because you have been with me from the beginning.*

We are utterly dependent upon the Spirit and not just our mind and intellect, or even experience. To understand and comprehend the things of God and the universe we need the Spirit. Without God, our understanding is limited but also I suggest deeply flawed.

**Also, the Spirit will speak to the World – John 16: 8 - 11**

The “world” refers to those people and systems who do not know or acknowledge that God is King of all the universe +++or follow his chosen Way Jesus. We can ask the Spirit to reveal the truth about Jesus to us but also to others who are either interested in Jesus or simply in truth.

John claims that **Jesus said the Spirit reveals the truth about 3 things: sin, righteousness and judgement.** These are VERY BIG theological ideas and NOT discussed much in everyday circles or conversations any more.

*“The disciples do NOT yet see that the “going” of Jesus means victory” (Lesslie Newbigen. The Light has come). “Going is a necessary condition of the greater good, of the finishing of the work for which Jesus was sent” p210) **The work of the Spirit as we would expect is to continue the work of Jesus, with the church as the principle agent behind the Spirit.** The Spirit goes before us to bring the world under conviction (a movement of the Spirit). Remember John 3: 16 – 21: people love darkness rather than light. The world’s ideas about right and wrong are fundamentally false. People say “I’m not essentially a bad person” – *if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth isn’t in us. John’s epistles.* SIN is essentially unbelief and “the world” did not and does not believe in Jesus and follow him. Because the world does not believe in and follow Jesus it will be judged.*

***Of sin – because they do NOT believe in me***

***Of righteousness – because I go to the Father and you will see me no more***

***Of judgement – because the Ruler of this World is judged.***

JESUS says the world convicted Jesus and he was not guilty. (The world’s understanding of right and wrong is false). Jesus was shown to be righteous (right in God’s eyes) by his resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4). The world has been shown to be unrighteous in many many ways. The Ruler of this World (the Evil One) stands judged.

God alone will judge (The world is proved wrong *Read 12: 31NOW is the time for this world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown.*) The world judges by a variety of ways – according to culture and prejudice we draw lines in the sand. But who is right? Are there God given universals of right and wrong? The Bible says that there are: it doesn’t say this in a simple way – it allows for complexity.

**No one who really understands God says it is simple to discern but as we see we need the Spirit and the Word of God to discern what is of light and what is of darkness.**

**Let me give you an example of the Spirit at work:** as you know we spent time on Thursday with a family and friends at a lovely day of seeking God’s blessing on a recent marriage (a real love across the latitudes). Over the extended luncheon banquet we had lots of lively discussions about all sorts of issues in the world: including salaries in England, housing issues in London and the south, the NHS and what was the alternative. At one point one of the people talking and it wasn’t me said suddenly: *these are all ethical matters really aren’t they for society.*

Indeed, they are. The Spirit shows me and you and others – that “we are weighed in the balances and found lacking”. *Daniel 5: 27*) The Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness and judgement – AND OUR NEED OF Jesus, Saviour of the World.