

Home Group study: week beginning 11th May 2020

Jesus Christ: Dangerous Revolutionary

1: The humanity of Jesus

Is there someone — an historic figure, a celebrity, sports person, politician, world leader, religious leader — whom you really admire? What is it about that person that makes them so special?

Read: Luke 2: 1-7

Jesus came to earth as a glorious, conquering saviour to fulfil the eternal purposes of God, the creator of the universe. If you were writing the story, how would you bring Jesus into the world?

God knew the moment he would cause Jesus to be born. Of course God's timing is always perfect: but in human terms do you think he picked the best time? What do the circumstances of his birth say to us about Jesus' humanity? Why might God have chosen for Jesus' birth to be in such humble circumstances?

Now, here's a difficult memory test for your group. What does the shortest verse in the Bible say?

Read: John 11: 35

Undoubtedly the shortest reading ever in the history of Home Group notes! There are reports in the Bible of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. Yet we don't hear of him weeping as he faced his own very painful future. Why does Jesus weep here?

John 11 is a remarkable tale of Jesus being wholly God and wholly human. **Read verses 1-8.** Do you get a sense of Jesus being a normal part of a group of friends? There's a lovely 'family atmosphere' to this. Yet what does v4 tell us about Jesus being God?

Look at **verses 5, 20-22** and **v27**. How does Martha regard Jesus? What do these verses tell us about Jesus being wholly man and wholly God? Though v27 makes it clear that Martha understands exactly who Jesus is, how has she approached him? What does that tell us about the way we can approach Jesus?

Verse 4 tells us Jesus knows exactly how this story will end. Why then is v35 there? Jesus as God knows what is going to happen and that Lazarus's death will be a time for rejoicing in the greatness of God. So what do those two little words, Jesus wept, tell us about Jesus? Isn't it amazing how two little words in Scripture, the shortest of all verses, can be packed with so much meaning!

Read: Philippians 2: 6-11

This is surely one of the most awesome (if not *the* most awesome) passages in scripture. Verses 9-11 are the most amazing outcome of verses 6-8. Contemplate together what Verses 6-8 tell us about Jesus. Just think how a 'servant' (v7) might have been treated in society back then. Think of the extent to which the Son of God 'humbled himself' (v8); is that not just totally astonishing?

Then think about the sheer awesome nature of the Risen Christ in verses 9-11. What comfort to we draw from those verses, especially as we go through these difficult times? Consider how Jesus' nature revealed in verses 6-8 affects how we can approach we can approach the Jesus of verses 9-11, and how we can actually know him for ourselves.