

Home Group study: week beginning 22nd August 2021

Unity

Can you think of occasions where something major has been achieved by communities working together towards a common cause?

Read: Psalm 133, Mark 14:3-8, John 17: 20-23

To what is unity likened in Ps133? Can you recall from Sunday's sermon the significance of the oil used to anoint Aaron and the dew of Hermon falling on Mount Zion?

Although Aaron was anointed in a hugely elaborate public ceremony for his ministry, the anointing of Jesus was a much more simple and intimate occasion. What parallels can you draw between Ps133:2 and Mark14:3? What was Aaron being anointed for and what was Jesus being anointed for? Do you think Ps133 may be looking forward to Jesus? Why might that be?

The Dew of Hermon was considered to represent God pouring out his blessing and Mount Zion symbolised the people of God. Taking Psalm 133 and the John passage together, what is God's promise to believers? Why does Jesus pray so fervently that 'all of them (*us*) should be one'? How important would you say unity in the church is to God?

Read: Ephesians 4: 1-6

Why might unity be an essential part of 'a life worthy of the calling you have received'? How does Paul describe Unity?

What 'tools' does Paul give us to help foster unity in the church? Describe how each of them may be used; how effective do you think each of these 'tools' might be in ensuring unity?

Application

It was suggested on Sunday that the church could have new roles to play as we emerge from the social effects of COVID. It was also suggested that there are increasing signs of the End Times in our world. Do you agree?

What roles do you think the church is being called to fulfil over, say, the next 12 months? How might disunity affect our preparation for that those roles?

What sort of things might we allow to cause disunity? Can we justify allowing these to stand in the way of what we need to be doing as a church? Think of ways we can ensure we all pull together to fulfil our increasing important role in seeing God's purposes fulfilled in our lives and that of the church. How can we 'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace'?

Pray that the unity of the Spirit floods this church and that God will fulfil his intentions both for our lives within the church and for the mission of Jubilee Church to extend God's kingdom.

When this church was started, we expected to see Thamesmead school hall full on Sundays.

We weren't ready to cope with that then, but 40 years on we are now 'coming of age'.

A recent prophecy as talked of us filling the Jubilee Centre. Pray that this will happen: soon!