

Nov Dec 1999

Newsletter



In Focus

– Tuesday Club

Q - What happens at 6:45pm every Tuesday?

A - Junior Club takes place in the "Bethel" Sunday School building.

Q - Who is it for?

A - Any 7 to 11 year old who comes on a Sunday to Sunday School can take part in Tuesday club.

Q - What goes on?

A - Everything and anything! A programme of activities is planned every 6 months and includes games, quizzes, art, drama, swimming, outings plus a whole bag of other things.

Q - Does it cost anything?

A - 10 pence a week! That is all we ask. The church pays for all of the equipment and other activities. There is a tuck shop, but we restrict the amount that can be spent to 30p a week.

Q - Why do you do it?

A - All the leaders involved want to provide a safe place for the young people of the church to come and play, meet their friends and take part in new activities. We see the club as an important extension to the Sunday School.

Q - What about school the next day?

A - We understand that parents want their children to have a good night's rest before school, so club finishes no later than 8:30 and we make sure all the children are taken home directly.

Q - Who can I speak to in order to find out more?

A - At least one of the club leaders will be available on any Sunday to answer any questions you might have - Alternatively pop in and see us any Tuesday evening between 6:45 and 8:30.



Thought

– Why did Jesus have to Die?

Why did Jesus have to die? This is a common question asked by many people. This is an attempt to quickly skim over some of the answers...

- Before we begin looking at some answers let's set the scene... We share in the same sins that resulted in and contributed to Jesus' death; Jealousy, hatred, pride, selfishness, apathy, crowd mentality and violence. That is to say let's not forget that it certainly wasn't God that directly killed Jesus but people like us. There is still the question though as to why God let it happen and even planned it this way, Jesus death was the fulfilment of many Old Testament prophecies. (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53)

- Very often, when confronted with the teachings of Jesus, people say something like, "How can I live like a Christian, people will walk all over me!". This is certainly true to some extent, there are lots of people out there willing to abuse and take advantage of someone who is willing to give themselves unselfishly. So in a way Jesus death was a "natural" conclusion to the way he did live his life.
- It's almost as if God made sure that it was plain that before his son was sent, every other alley had been taken; "Maybe they will listen to my son?", was the saying of the owner of the vineyard in the parable. (Matthew 21:33-41). Jesus came after a long line of prophets who were all mistreated by the people who God sent them to.
- Jesus death can be compared to the animal sacrifices that were made under the Law of Moses in the Old Testament;
 - Taking away guilt. – Who would ever dare to say, "The blood of Jesus wasn't a good enough sacrifice to take away my sin"
 - Showing the seriousness of sin. – If our sin is so bad that it took such horrific act to repair the damage then our response is, "I can't let sin get a foothold in my life"
 - Provides a way of bringing our sin before God. – When we remember Jesus sacrifice we have a focus that is different than purely our sin, just as the focus of the sacrifice in the Old Testament wasn't just the sin but also the sin offering. The fact that God himself instituted the way of coming to him enables us to be confident in following this way.
- This sacrifice was good enough to be one sacrifice for all time. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice.
- This is how we know how much God desperately wanted to reconcile the world to himself. It is the highest price imaginable to be paid by a Father. God wanted to say how much he loved us. He said it or rather shouted it louder than any man could scream, louder than the most violent thunderstorm, or the crashing of the largest waves. The sound of a nail hammered through the human flesh of Jesus.
- God had provided Jesus with the option to come down from the cross if he wanted and was willing to provide legions of angels to rush and rescue him should Jesus so much as say the word. (???) This how we know the depth of Jesus love for us. Jesus himself said, "Greater love has no man than this; that he laid down his life for his friends". (John 15:13). This is the very definition of disinterested altruism. All this and not even for family or relatives or for any previous outstanding debt, but for people who he didn't know and to whom he owed nothing. Jesus could have come down from the cross but he chose not to, he could have had no other conceivable motivation than love (other than perhaps some seriously depraved sense of wanting to be famous).
- Jesus has shown what we have the ability to rise to. He was a trailblazer in selflessness and humility.
- He is our definitive example, Jesus life and the way in which he was willing to die shows us that real glory is not in the so-called "honourable" ways we naturally tend to imagine of ourselves. But in giving the whole of our life.
- Jesus showed his worthiness in his willingness to go to the cross. (Revelation 5). "If I were faced with having to do anything remotely like this, I would most probably just run. Even if I thought it was something that had to be done I imagine I would just shutdown my conscience and

Thought Ctl.. (Why did Jesus have to die?)

become numb to it. I certainly couldn't bear this burden and no way could I face it in the open hearted and painful way in which Jesus did."

- God's power is shown in that he raised Jesus from the dead.
- Jesus death and resurrection is powerful evidence that Jesus is the way to come to God and indeed that God exists at all. There is little other explanation in terms of the motivation of the early church proclaiming the news of Jesus resurrection other than that it was fact. Early there was certainly no worldly power to be gained by proclaiming the resurrection, only persecution and maybe even death.
- As with all human beings we have potential be very compassionate yet also the potential to be very hard hearted. The way that Jesus was killed is very affecting, it represents God's shock tactics. The contrast between the person Jesus was and the unfair way in which he was treated is great, so much so that even the hardest heart could be moved by it. The gentlest man on earth was brutally beaten, the truthful and honest man was mocked and lied about, the lovely was hated, the dignified was spat upon, the innocent was violated, the humble was crushed without mercy and the righteous man who did nothing in his life but help the poor people of his world was brutally killed. Jesus was God's way to "Remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh" because God's aim is to dwell in the hearts of men and women.
- The death of Jesus "cancelled the written code" and freed us from the Old Covenant (The Law of Moses) and brought us into a New Covenant with God by our faith in God who raised him from the dead.
- True colours were shown; Jesus was shown to be faultless and unselfish but the religious authorities were shown to be corrupt.
- In his suffering Jesus became a perfect priest for us, one who can sympathise with the very depths of all human emotions. He was "Tempted in every way even as we are". Pain, suffering and maybe even loneliness from God?
- We can also share in Jesus resurrection if we identify with him in his death, we have been given a hope. Jesus is the "First-fruits" of all who will be raised from the dead when he returns in power in his kingdom.
- Now we have a time to remember Jesus, when we share bread and wine or when we are going about our everyday lives. We have one powerful event to go over in our minds, one simple thought, one basic idea. At any time in our lives, when we are low and in a bad way or when we are joyful we can find this focus; Jesus died for me. "Thank-you Jesus"



What's On?

(At Henrietta St. unless otherwise stated)

Sunday evening Services at 6:00 pm...

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER(S)
Dec 19	Christmas Carol Service	John Fane
Jan 2	The Man of the Millennium	Steve Eichorn
Jan 9	The Man of History	Ben Downer
Jan 16	The Man of God	John Downer
Jan 23	The Man Like Us	Lionel Taylor
Jan 30	The Man of Miracles	Malcolm Storer
Feb 6	The Man Who Died	Jack Fitzgibbon
Feb 13	The Man Who Will Return	Peter Green
Feb 20	Psalms	Martyn Ramsden
Feb 27	Psalms	Malcolm Cross
Mar 5	In the Beginning - God Created	John Fane

Special Events:

• Christmas Day Service

Sat. 25th Dec. 11:00 am – All Welcome.

• "Millennium Café"

Fri. 31-Dec. 8:00 pm – Together we will be celebrating, meditating, praying, drinking cups of tea and coffee and enjoying some good food. Also why not stay with us until midnight to see in the New Year?

Regulars:

Sunday

- Breaking of Bread Service 10:30
- Sunday Bible School 2:45
(From Kids aged 4, up to Adult Discussion Group)
- Evening Service 6:00 (See above for details)

Tuesday

- Junior Youth club 6:45
- Bible reading course 7:00 – Chorlton Adult Education Centre ☎(0161) 286 6471 for details.

Wednesday

- Young Peoples Bible reading Group 8:00 (Held at Various homes)

Thursday

- Bible Class 8:00

Friday

- Senior Youth club 7:30

Web site www.bigfoot.com/~OTChristadelphians

Email address  OTChristadelphians@bigfoot.com

Phone Number

We do have a phone line (for contacting people during service times etc...) but you also can use this number to leave a message on our answer machine, which is checked regularly.

☎ (0161) 872 0163