

Word Notes Sunday 13/04/14

Thea Geach – The Cup and the Cross

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Colossians 2:14-15

John the Baptist's first words to Jesus at the Jordan were, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." A prophet from before he was born, he recognised the prime purpose of Jesus' life. In Jewish culture, however, there was no place for a suffering servant messiah so this sacrificial reference would have made no sense. At the last supper (not that the disciples knew that it was!) when Jesus mentioned "This is my body given for you, this cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you." they would have been revolted, but they understood the fundamental issues of covenant.

In Covenant promises (Josh 9) gifts were exchanged and names were changed to incorporate the other person as part of the family. A cup of wine drunk, cuts on the body were made and blood exchanged, a permanent mark was left, a meal shared and a memorial made. On the Day of Atonement two goats were used – one for sacrifice and one for a sin offering. At this first Easter Jesus is making himself both the sacrifice and the sin offering. He is aware of the pain that he will endure, mental and spiritual, as a result of the sin offering and in the garden we can see that he is desperate for God's wrath not to touch him but is willing to do the will of God. "He became sin who knew no sin" as the song goes.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 5:8

So because of Jesus' sacrifice instead of:

- Sin we have righteousness
- Death - life
- Sickness - healing
- Rejection - acceptance
- Poverty – abundance

The Cross was absolute. It disarmed and defeated Satan and every evil that ever existed. Even the evil that looks as if it is coming on you. No matter what hits you, it must turn into a blessing. Colossians 2:14-15 says Jesus has "taken it away, nailing it to the cross, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness which stood against us and condemned us; And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

All take part in discussion:

What stands out to you about this?

Can you illustrate this truth from your own life? (For me, I no longer live in fear, yet I still lack confidence which can hold me back at times.)

What did you exchange at the cross?

What do you need to let go of now?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Identify one thing that's different about you because of Jesus, aim to share that with one person in the week.