

**Word notes Sunday 08/02/09 DT Braven-Giles**  
**Jesus; The Message**

## **Summary**

John starts his gospel account of Jesus talking of “the Word” – in Greek that’s “Logos”, a term first coined by Heraclitus a Greek philosopher around 600 B.C. to mean “the divine reason or plan which coordinates a changing universe” (Strong’s).

The Word John wrote of was there at the very beginning of all things, there with God and even more – actually being God. Through the Word all things were made and that in him was life and that life was the light of man. Having set the scene at the beginning John then goes on to relate this to the present and the testimony of John the Baptist that Jesus is that very same light and hence the Word.

Jesus then IS the Word, the divine reason or plan, the message – sent by God to reveal His purpose. When 1<sup>st</sup> century folk met him and saw him for who and what he was they were humbled – more than that they were “undone” – a lovely word somewhat out of use today which means in this context to be “brought to ruin”.

DT started his talk with the account in Luke’s gospel chapter 5 vv 1-10 of Jesus and some fishermen. As a result of the encounter Simon falls at Jesus knees and asks him to leave him alone because of his sinful nature. Unlike many men Jesus didn’t triumph over Simon’s undoing or perhaps even just say “I’m glad you’ve seen your wrongdoing” instead Jesus tells him not to be afraid but that from now on he would be a different kind of fisherman.

DT concluded with a clip from the film “The Passion” where we see the same Simon, having promised to follow Jesus even to death, deny him three times as Jesus had said he would. Simon is once again distraught. But we know that this same man, when filled with the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised, became a leading figure in a movement that changed the world 2000 years ago and still challenges and confounds governments (and health trusts) today.

Jesus is the message that we carry. When Jesus met people they were “undone”, what about us? A big challenge, but we have a big God who put His Holy Spirit inside us.

## **Application**

What other accounts from the Gospels can people recall where Jesus shook people to the core with just a few words? (eg the woman at the well I mentioned the other week, the woman caught in adultery, the rich young ruler).

In each case try to see what Jesus did for these people – for example Simon and his fishermen received the catch they needed against all odds when they were willing to obey. The woman at the well regained her hope for the future, the woman caught in adultery was not judged and killed as she expected to be but given life.

In what ways can we give gifts like these to those around us, cutting across the expectations people might have and acting in the opposite way to the world? In what ways can we be The Message – The Good News?

## **Witness:**

Have all shared their brief testimony? Don’t go round counting but think for a moment – how often was Jesus mentioned by name? Can we be more true to the person who changed our lives? Jesus didn’t crow over Simon’s admission of sin, nor over his denials but instead restored him – to a newer and better Simon. Let’s ask the Lord to help us share our personal relationship with Him – start in the friendly environment of Cell by sharing what Jesus has said or done or meant to you this last week. Then the big challenge is to share that with a non-Christian – not in a forced way but naturally in the course of our lives.