

**Word notes Sunday 7/2/10 Roy Wheeler**  
**What can we expect when Jesus, by his Holy Spirit is present.**

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

Key Text: Mark 2:1-12

Hebrews 13:8 tells us that Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever so in looking at this passage in Mark the things that happened then can happen now when Jesus is present by his Holy Spirit:

- People came to see and hear (v2)
- There is preaching that grips people's attention (v2)
- The paralysed, sick, diseased, needy people come or are brought by their friends (v3)
- The friends pressed through and Jesus acted when he saw their faith (v4)
- Forgiveness of sins is pronounced and received (v5)
- Prophetic gifts are activated (v8)
- God's power is released (v12)
- They gave praise to the Lord (v12)

Now God is omnipresent (in all places at the same time) yet we know that He chooses to "manifest" His presence at particular times and places – in the Old Testament we see Him in a burning bush, a pillar of cloud and fire, in the tabernacle and the temple. In the New Testament in Jesus, His Son, who was only in one place at a time, and then through the apostles by the Holy Spirit eg Acts 10 at Cornelius' house.

These things have happened in the church in a similar way on numerous occasions - both in New Testament times and beyond to today, the most notable example perhaps being in 1906 at Azusa Street, Los Angeles. Can we dare to believe the same in Newmarket, if so are we able to prepare the way for him here?

We can't put God in a box or force Him to work to a formula; He is sovereign, yet here are four keys to help us attract the presence of the Lord, to make him welcome in his house:

- God loves His house to be clean – NB we are the house!. Psalm 24:3-6
- God loves harmony – unity, agreement on the fundamental things of faith and being "all together" as Acts 2 :1 has it – not just assembled but of one mind or passion. Psalm 133.
- Serious prayer attracts God. Psalm 84:2
- God manifests His presence in the midst of heartfelt worship – Psalm 22:3 (read KJV or MKJV)

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

To answer some the following you'll need to see this passage in context – look in Mark chapter 1 for answers.

- Why did people come? (Mark 1:28?)
- What was it about Jesus' teaching that attracted them? (Mark 1:22,27)
- Why did they think to bring the sick and needy? (Mark 1:26, 31, 3-34, 40)
- Why did the friends have to dig through the roof?
- What are the teachers of the law questioning in v6? (Mark 1:22, Mark 2:7-10)

Pray through the 4 keys to welcoming the presence of the Lord, use the scriptures provided – that we as individuals and as a church can expect the Lord to manifest his presence among us.

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

How do our answers to the questions in the Application section suggest we should act towards those who do not know Jesus?