

Word notes Sunday 10/1/10 Tony Hodge
Jesus: Fully God & Fully Man

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

Key Texts: John 1:1-14 & Matthew 1:1-17

If we are to preach Christ Jesus and him crucified we should start with who Jesus is. The Gospels of John and Matthew do this in two very different ways. John speaks about the eternal Word who was with God from the beginning and is made flesh while Matthew details Jesus lineage from Abraham through David.

John's opening statement is both poetic, even fantastic, yet also challenging – Jesus was and is one with God. Jesus himself clearly states the same in his last prayer with his disciples (Jn 17:5).

Jesus is either supremely arrogant, quite mad or who he says he is: the eternal Son of God.

Matthew's account of Jesus' lineage is carefully constructed, three groups of 14 generations, though if we do a cross-check with Luke and Old Testament accounts there are some missing. What is Matthew telling us? Quite simply he is emphasising his opening sentence: "A record of the genealogy of **Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham**" in order to then set out through his Gospel how Jesus is the fulfilment of the promises to both.

What is staring us in the face though is that Jesus is a man, not just some supernatural being – here's his family tree.

The Jesus to whom John and Matthew introduces us is unique – fully God and Fully Man, no other persona can make this claim, no holy man, prophet or other religious leader. This lays the foundation for all Jesus ministry, from miracles to teachings and ultimately to his ministry of reconciliation between us and God on the cross and glorious resurrection to new life.

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

John says Jesus is the Word made flesh (Jn 1:14). What is the significance of calling Jesus "The Word"? (See Gen. 1:1-27, what verb is repeated?). What does this tell us about Jesus?

Matthew details Jesus human lineage focussing on his being in the line of David and Abraham for the purposes of showing how Jesus is the fulfilment of promises made to Israel and to those two people in particular. What is that to you and me who are, presumably, "Gentiles" (see Genesis 22:15-19, Psalm 22:22-31, Psalm 86:8-12)?

Jesus is fully God and fully man – born of a woman by the Spirit and called the "Son of God" by angels (Matthew 1:35); by John the Baptist (John 1:34) and by his close friends (John 11:27).

What does John say about our own dual lineage (John 1:12, 13)? Is this automatic or do people need to "access" this right in some way?

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

How might you use organised and random acts of kindness to bless people around you – for example washing cars, doing gardens, cleaning up your estate or street. Make sure they are things anyone can do. Discuss ideas, and how each can get involved. Share these with the leadership if they need wider involvement.