

Word notes Sunday 13/01/2013 Tony Hodge
“This is my Son” – Father’s words about Jesus

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

Key Texts: Matt 3:13-17; Matt 17:1-8; John 12:20-33

I expect all of us who are parents speak well of our children – young or old. We’re proud of the things they achieve and value them for their love. What if Father God were to speak about His Son audibly to us right now – what might He say? In these three passages we read about times when Father God did just that.

Matt 3:13-17 - Baptism

God clearly proclaims who Jesus is and the relationship between them:

- 1) To John the Baptist. Confirmation of what he had already seen in Jesus (v14)
- 2) To Jesus, affirmation at the start of his earthly ministry and immediately prior to temptation.
- 3) To all – the Trinity made plain. Jesus present in bodily form, Father God’s voice is heard from the heavens, the Holy Spirit is seen to be present in bodily form like a dove (Lk 3:22).

Matt 17:1-8 - Transfiguration

Here we see Jesus the eternal Son – Moses and Elijah know him and talk confidently with him.

Why Moses? – To show the fulfilment of scripture in Deut 34:10 and 18:15

Why Elijah? – This was prophesied in Malachi 4:4-6.

Peter makes the mistake of trying to confine all three to the physical “here and now” but God intervenes to make clear the heavenly eternal connection.

John 12:20-33 - Glorification

Jesus is acknowledged before all men (NB the Greeks who were present). Jesus talks about the hour being come for The Son of Man to be glorified, not just for the benefit of Israel but all mankind. Following Pentecost Peter then Paul both take this up – in Romans 1:16 Pauls says: he is “.....not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

What does this all say about Jesus, in summary:

- 1) That he is God’s Son
- 4) That he is Saviour and we should listen to him
- 5) That his sacrifice and resurrection glorifies God and brings reconciliation for those that follow him.

Are these the things we speak about when people ask us about our faith in Jesus or when the Holy Spirit opens a way for us to testify?

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

For each person answer one of:

- (a) Parents - when have you spoken up for your children to give them acknowledgement and support?
- (b) Not a parent ?- what is your fondest memory of something a parent or guardian said about you?

In either case what was the significance or result for the child and the parents?

What do you see as the purpose or significance in God speaking audibly on each of the three occasions? Use parts of the texts or other scriptures to support your conclusions. Are there differences?

How does God speak to people about His Son today? (Hint – there are clues in Acts and the Epistles?)

How can we be God’s voice to those around us in regard to His Son’s identity, purpose and gospel?

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

See the last question.