



Word Notes: Sunday 05/11/17

Thea Geach – New Clothes

Thea's message on Sunday was of being set free – Jesus has opened the door of your prison and you are free! For Jehoiachin (2 Kings 25) and Joseph (Genesis 37-47) that was literally true – they were in physical prisons yet released for the purposes of God. In both cases they were taken out of prison, given clean clothes and presented before the King.

In Zechariah 2, in a vision, Joshua the High Priest has his filthy clothes replaced with clean ones and a turban placed on his head before being told to *“walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here”* (Zech 3:7) (This Joshua was the one who was appointed to get the temple restored in Jerusalem before Nehemiah could come and rebuild the city).

The application Thea brought for us is to encourage each to walk in the right way, keep short accounts with God, accept God's forgiveness and forgive ourselves. Stripping off everything that holds you back (old clothes), don't just cover things up, putting on patches but throw the old garment out and put on the new – change your thinking. The Good News – God has done all the hard work!

- What is your understanding of having been set free? What “prisons” held you before Christ came into your life (ie bondages, allegiances, wrongful thinking) or what filthy clothes did you need to take off (ie examples of wrongful living)?
- In Colossians 3:1-10 Paul makes a comparison of some of the old ways we used to live with the new life we can live in Christ and by the Spirit.
 - What is the key thing that has changed in the believer?
 - How does Paul liken the change – what final natural process has taken place?
 - Why or how then is it that we might still see some of the “old person” trying to come back to life?
- Joshua the High Priest was given a new, clean turban for his head. What significance does that image have for our new life and how we can help keep the old person firmly in their grave?
- How can being part of a small group help us? Make commitments to help each other *“Walk in God's ways and keep His requirements”*.