

Word notes Sunday 09/12/2012 Roy Wheeler
The Condescension of Jesus

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

Key Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

The prophet Isaiah proclaims “Unto us a child is born”. When God speaks it’s as good as done! God calls things that are not as though they are. “Unto us a Son is given - not just born but something different – “given”. Each new baby is special but this birth even more so – it’s unique! As the Son of God this Son already existed (Jn 1:1) as the Word, the Christ, in Jn 1:14 we read that this same person of God came and dwelt among us.

Psalms 8, especially verse 3 gives us clue into the amazing wonder that God has performed but also the immeasurably great cost: “When I consider the heavens etc, what is man that you should visit him?” To condescend means to voluntarily descend to a lower level to help someone at that level such as a king purposely living on the streets to help them, like the Secret Millionaire series on TV but much more - The Christ, The Son who was and is God, came down to be my friend.

Jesus the Son came to bring peace on earth – the peace with God, with others and with ourselves which was proclaimed by Isaiah and the Angels, bridging the gulf between God and humanity. Even in these days of text, emails and Skype there is still something special about a personal visit. For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only Son - given not born. Didn’t just shout from heaven he came and communicated directly in a way we could relate too, yet we can’t fully comprehend what it cost. God is not just an extra large human, a big Santa Clause. Is 55:9 reminds us that we can’t fathom out God’s thoughts.

The eternal, almighty ever-present God chose to limit himself in human form, came as a vulnerable baby, learnt from human parents and others – the very people he created. The God unlimited by time (Rev 1:8) laid that aside to be constrained in time with humanity. Omnipresent, he limited himself to one place and the human pace of life. Omniscient, all-knowing, neither slumbering nor sleeping but he came and experienced tiredness, hunger, bereavement, childhood & obedience, school, job training, misunderstandings, emotions, dissatisfaction, disappointment, pain, rejection and even death of the worst imaginable kind.

WHY? So he could truly understand and sympathize all that we might experience, also so that we might be reconciled to God as our saviour but also as a friend.

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

What in particular struck you about Roy’s message? Did you “leave by a different way” after hearing it and if so how were you changed?

What’s the biggest thing you’ve ever had to give up? Why did you do it and what was the result?

Roy said we often consider the cost of Jesus’ death but perhaps not the cost of his birth. Is that a new idea to you? How does this change your perception of the Christmas story? How does it affect your views on the festival of Christmas, what you do at this time of year, the way you discuss it with others?

Spend some time in prayer, acknowledge the sacrifice Jesus made in becoming the Son given to us. Pray for each other to receive a bigger revelation of the Christ, his birth and the love that was poured out through him. Pray for effectiveness in speaking out the truth of Christmas.

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

How do your household decorations declare the glory of God in Jesus birth? Can you make them a talking point at Christmas?