

Cell Outlines

Week beginning: 19th February 2006

Theme: The Mystery of the Cross

Welcome: Have you ever been rescued or helped out of a difficult (or embarrassing!) situation? Share some stories.

Worship Suggestion: Consider/ meditate on Isaiah 53:4-5 and spend some time in worship to our Lord Jesus Christ and for His great love for us.

Word/ Teaching Slot

Jesus had to overcome sin at two levels. First, at the level of daily living, where He overcame the reign of sin in the flesh by His perfect obedience to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Second, in terms of the judgement of God upon sin, through which He received in Himself the punishment for sin and thereby totally atoned for it, and defeated the power of death through His own death on the cross. Jesus was born of the Spirit and lived in the power of the Spirit. He never knew what it was to sin. In fact, Jesus lived at the level of true humanity for which Adam was created and in which he lived until he fell through disobedience: Jesus had a real body of flesh. It was like ours inasmuch as it was susceptible to temptation, as was the flesh of Adam before he fell. But it was unlike ours in that it was governed by the Spirit of God, and never knew the reality of sin until the end. This is where we see the immensity of His offering on the cross. At this point He did something, which He had never experienced before. He opened Himself to the reality and effects of sin within His own body. Not His sin, but the sin of all other men, and into Himself He gathered all its awful effects and judgement (2 Corinthians 5:21). A.W. Tozer wrote, "The old cross is a symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of a human being. In Roman times the man who took up his cross and started down the road was not coming back. He was not going out to have his life redirected, he was going out to have it ended."

Questions & Discussion Points

1. What can you remember of David's sermon? (See 1 Corinthians 1:23 as a reminder!)
2. Was there anything in particular which spoke to you that you feel able to share with your cell?
3. Read Luke 22:39-46 and Matthew 26:36-46. What do you think Jesus went through at this time?
4. Why do we have eternal life as a result of Jesus' work on the cross? (To help you answer this question you might like to together at Romans 6:5-14 & 23).

When we realise how much Jesus had to suffer for us, can we do anything but take up our own cross, as He asks of us, and follow Him? Discuss (You might like to refer to Luke 14:25-34 in your discussions together).

Witness

At some time in the next month or so you might like to consider renting/ viewing the film 'The Passion of the Christ' together. You might also prayerfully consider bringing along someone who hasn't seen it from your network of contacts, if appropriate.

Spend some time in prayer for one another regarding these cell notes and how we might best serve the Lord Jesus in the light of His great sacrificial love for us. Also how can we translate that into practical service towards others? Pray also for those who don't feel able to take up their own cross of service or don't want to.