

Unpacking the Preach

Date Sunday 27th September 2020
Sermon Title A Family in the world, but not of the world
Bible Passage John 17:6-19

Introduction

Take time to read the passages again and reflect on the below questions:

- Are there any new or different things that the scriptures have spoken to you about?

Recapping the preach

- The things that we should be guarding ourselves against with greater discipline, are the unseen powers that try and dismiss the power of the Holy Spirit within us.
- The evil we must acknowledge is based on lies, which are for the purposes of rendering those that bring the Kingdom of God with them, useless.
- In this season of isolation and fear, separation from the presence of God for those of faith in him through his Son, are promised that we can't escape the Spirit of God as it lives within us...Jesus prays for supernatural protection.
- Jesus is preparing his disciples by interceding for them and asking our Father in heaven for his PROTECTION, JOY, SANCTIFICATION AND UNITY.
- Church history shows a separation from the world it lives in, which has disastrous results for the world (WW2 Germany and the Church) that without realising, needs Gods family who are his image bearers and bringers of hope in Christ.
- Unity in Christ who radically loves the world in all its forms of brokenness (Rom 5:6) should be strived for over doctrinal and traditional unity (which we have to admit is impossible).
- A family called to imitate Christ must be prepared to suffer for their faith, not just persecution for their beliefs, but the pain and suffering of entering into it with others through their faith in Christ.
- Sent into the world as a voice of love, not as a religious voice that isn't understood in a Post Christian world.

• Questions for reflection

- The full armour of God that Paul speaks of in his letter to the Ephesians (ch6) pictures the Kingdom of God readying itself for battle – are we battling against the right things in our mission to bring hope to a hopeless world?
- How can the world, which is not a place on a map but a spiritual domain, an atmosphere of darkness and unbelief - best witness the Kingdom of God and it's unveiling of light, hope and truth?
- Jesus prays for spiritual protection so that none are lost (like Judas) when going out into the world; could God's family have taken this in error at times, to mean asking for protection *from* the world (physical instead of spiritual) as it mixes with them? If so what could/has been the result of this?
- Jesus intercedes for us here, and is said in the shadow of the cross, preparing himself but thinking about his followers; how can we model this within the church family?
- Romans 8:34-36 we see Paul reminding Christians that nothing in the world will separate them from the love of Christ, as they live in the world with all its suffering; should there be an equal focus of Jesus as the Suffering Servant and Conquering King? Or do we lean to one or the other?

• **Going Deeper**

- Jesus keeps repeating his “new commandment” that his followers love one another (Jn 13:34, 15:12, 17). Without an heroic love similar to Jesus’ love, unity is impossible. If we think of Jesus’ love in terms of ‘Incarnation’ which is the supreme demonstration of divine unity with suffering humanity....how do the following quotes from these theologians makes us feel?...

“The Church is factually in the world, but it has a recurring tendency and temptation to create it's own environment of doctrinal, pastoral, liturgical and canonical reality that distances and protects it from the world” (**John Sobrino**)

“It is impossible to make any progress, without a genuine spirit of unity, which is not a matter of doing something for the poor, but of engaging with them and seeing things from their perspective” (**Leonardo Boff**)

“The gospel of Christ is a summons not merely to act on behalf of the poor, marginalised and persecuted (this can mean any community in

which the Christian finds itself or has access to) but to be with them and see the world from their perspective” (**Joshua Searle**)

Response

- Embrace the world in it's suffering, rather than at arms length help it.
- Invest in relationships that foster openness, vulnerability, trust and hope.
- Acknowledge the joining in of the divine, into the world and our lives, that we may carry the divine in us through Christ and bring light into the darkness.
- Support and encourage one another to step out in faith, over and above just 'believing'.

Prayer pointers

- That we may learn to to trust God through our courage in Christ to become uncomfortable.
- God is love.
- Opportunities to bring the Kingdom of God out of a church and into the community.
- Unity within the church that enables the world to immediately see that it represents Jesus, who was sent by God to save it.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>