



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

8th February, 2021

Sunday Sermon: What did Jesus teach?

Pursuing the encouragement to build our lives on Jesus, the only Foundation laid for us, John focused on the Content of Christ's Teaching, taking Luke 4: 31-37 and Matthew 5 – 7 as illustrative Scriptures.

Although the more spectacular aspects of Jesus' ministry, like miracles and healings, are what most people remember from the Gospels' accounts of his life, the main thrust is that he was essentially a preacher and teacher, the Word who conveyed and communicated the truth of God.

When the content of that teaching is analysed three aspects stand out strongly.

His emphasis was on the **Kingdom of God** being established on earth, which they could become part of if they repented and believed the gospel, inducting them into a new realm under the rule of God, begun now but continuing to eternity.

Jesus also spoke of his own **key role** in bringing that kingdom to earth within reach of humanity by his incarnation and his sacrificial death as our substitute securing forgiveness through his Cross.

And, much of his teaching was on the **ethics** of the kingdom, how his people should behave as his followers, reflecting the values of heaven and being salt and light in the world: critical ethics and practical examples which are spelled out in the Sermon on the Mount which also contains the serious warning that it is only by heeding these words that lives are founded on a rock. Otherwise the house built will collapse helplessly.

Gordon and Janice Thomson

Gordon reports that he is still getting openings to minister and contact people, mainly by internet, and asks prayer that these may be effective and lead to lasting fruit. The online Mission held on January 25th did not attract as many numbers as the previous one but a better level of response and expressions of interest. These are being followed up. In the pipeline are preparations for a fully equipped trailer from which to conduct 'drive-in' missions – maybe "in a car park near you". (Allander?)

Janice's father is far from well and they would value prayer as they attend to his care at this time.

Maryhill Reminder

Maryhill's anniversary service will be held online this Saturday. Here is Donald's invitation: *This year Maryhill Evangelical Church is celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community of Maryhill. Due to current COVID restrictions, we are unable to celebrate as normal, but are putting together a short programme on Zoom on Saturday night 13th February at 7:00 pm. There will be a short time of reflection on the past work at Maryhill, and a moment to share our vision for the future in God's will. Daniel Sutherland will minister in song. If you would like to join with us on this occasion, the Zoom details are as follows:-Meeting ID: 83777742463; Passcode: mec. We hope you can join with us. Let me know via this email address (crosbiedonald3@gmail.com) if you can be with us.*

#One2Seven Online

Invitation letters will be sent out next Monday for the new series to be broadcast during March. If you know of anyone who would benefit from an invitation please let Jim Gourley know. Pray that there will be a good response to these invitations and pray for those of our own folk preparing and being videoed for the series.

By All Means

Jill McKinnon, from Montrose, a WEC missionary to Chad, has realised the potential of making good use of social media for communicating the gospel, even in remote areas. She quotes a Middle-East worker as saying: *“When people have faith questions now they don’t go down the street to their mosque, they go to their I-sheik – YouTube!”* Jill adds: *“Since the early 2000s we have been finding ways to encourage people in Chad to engage with God’s word via mobile and social media. This has led to opportunities to train others from different missions, even in closed countries, to ‘leverage’ social media to share the gospel. Through online training, people are seeing the possibilities of harnessing apps they use to chat with friends, to engage the lost in gospel conversations. Search ‘Mission Media Coach’ on YouTube for helpful tutorials.”*

Finally,

How long, O Lord, has often been the cry of the Lord’s people and we can possibly identify with it as we endure ongoing restrictions on life. Our frustration can be compounded by having no clear end in sight. Recently we heard that there was light at the end of the tunnel, but what of the old warning that said, *“Beware! The light at the end of the tunnel might be a train coming towards you!”* We realise how merciful God was when He told Israel their time in exile would be 70 years. In the face of their turmoil, they had a promise to hold onto that their suffering would end. Whilst we don’t have a chronological promise to keep us, we do have many promises that assure us that, when the trials of this life are over, not one of them will be remembered in the Joy of God’s presence.

John Macleod

(More information about apps available if required.)

Pray for:

Jack Harvey as he battles with health issues; and for Christine – and for George Cowan - as she/he face the frustrations of restricted access to the Homes. Others are facing the depressing effects of loneliness; or of restrictions, isolation, illness or age. Remember Phil Barlow in his loss with the passing of his brother recently. Much prayer has gone up in the prayer times over recent weeks for all these needs.

SAT-7.

This year SAT-7 celebrates 25 years of broadcasting in the MENA (Middle East & North Africa). Since its inception it has grown from broadcasting 2 hours per week to 24/7 over 4 channels each week.

Last year it exceeded its UK fundraising target of £2.1 million.

There is an opportunity to join this Wednesday, 10th February, in the News and Prayer event at 12 noon and repeated at 8pm. For Zoom details please contact Jim Gourley - 0784 191 1923.

Previous events have been a great blessing and challenge. Please don’t miss opportunity.