

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 23 April - 10:30AM. *Deborah and Barak. Stefan speaking.*

Wed 26th - men meet in person to discuss hermeneutics further

Fri 28th - women meet in person to discuss hermeneutics further (led by Becky)

Sunday 30 April - 10:30AM. *Mordecai and Esther.*

Sunday 07 May - service, 10:30AM. *Ruth & Boaz.*

Sunday 14 May - 10:30AM. *Jesus and the women who supported his work.*

Sunday 21 May - 10:30AM. *Jesus and the Samaritan woman.*

Sunday 28 May, 10:30AM. *Jesus, Mary & Martha.*

Visiting speakers coming later this year include: Mike Souza (East London), Christian Xavier (NW London), Jamie Akinlade (West London), Douglas Jacoby (Livingston, Scotland).

Adam & Eve

The focus of the lesson today is Adam and Eve. We will examine Genesis 1-3, but other relevant texts include: Rom. 5:14; 1 Cor. 15:22, 45; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14.

A Divine Harmony

The subtitle for the entire series is "A Divine Harmony". God has put men and women together; his intention has always been for them to bless one another. Both men and women are made in his image (Genesis 1:27), meaning that each is God's 'image'. It is not that men and women *together* represent God, for each one does so, but there is something more powerful about them bringing their gifts to bear in a united fashion.

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea

and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-28 NIV11)

Adam and Eve needed each other. Together they were more than they were apart. The implication is that they cannot fulfil their God-given responsibilities alone. The fact that God wanted humankind to have dominion over all He had made (which was 'good') implies that He believed man to be inherently 'good' (see also Gen 2.15).

By the way... *The point is not about marriage specifically, but it is about men and women working well together. Being single is not a lesser spiritual state, the Apostle Paul is clear on that (see, 1 Corinthians 7). Bear in mind that both Paul and Jesus were single. Paul and Jesus worked together with women very effectively.*

The danger of disharmony

Events in Eden show us what happens when men and women do not work in harmony with each other and God. The resulting disharmony harms their relationship with God, each other and all they influence.

For too long and too often, men and women have been pitted against one another. Differences exist, but they can be creative and mutually beneficial. When the gifts that men and women bring to the kingdom of God are harmoniously harnessed, they reveal the heart of God to the world. After all, when men and women were created, they fully expressed God's image.

What is our aim?

One of the big questions about these majestic opening sections of Scripture is what we aim at now? Do we accept the re-ordering of the male/female relationship after the encounter with the

serpent? Or, do we aim for the quality of the male/female relationship demonstrated before the serpent and sin got involved?

As someone said, paraphrasing Matthew Henry, "Eve wasn't created from Adam's head to dominate him, nor from his feet to be trampled on, but from his side to stand beside him as an equal, from under his arm to be protected, and from close to his heart to be loved."

Many differing interpretations of these events exist, and all should be considered. What do you think the message is to us from Genesis 1-3?

Malcolm

Cafe West

Cafe West needs volunteers:- Could this be something for you?

Since the Cafe opened in September 2007, although there have been staff changes, as one team member has moved on there has always been another offering help, this is the first time we have had to advertise.

What's involved?

On the day:-

Garth, Lissie and Lesley arrive at about 8am to get the machines running; the water heater switched on; flowers on the tables; cakes laid out, covered and labelled on the cake table etc. This gives us time to have a cup of tea and a prayer time before opening. We need at least one or two others who are willing and able to arrive early and learn this part of the job and who could then, in time, take it on at least occasionally.

The Cafe opens Every Tuesday at 9.15am and closes at 12.15pm. (notice will be given for changes to this at holiday times)

Customers come and go throughout the morning and are mainly served at the tables.

The kitchen staff prepare and serve the drinks; wash and dry the crockery as it's taken in to them, and return it to the cake table; ensure the surfaces are kept clean and tidy.

The cake table usually has two people serving, one will take cakes to the customers and one to remain in situ; the table needs to be kept clean and tidy; utensils washed and ready for reuse.

Tables need to be cleared as people either finish eating / drinking or leave.

When we close there is the clearing away and cleaning to be done meaning that staff need to be available until 1pm.

All of the above is standard in any cafe.

Hidden extras:- For the cafe to run there are many background things which have to be done.

Shopping (this may be from local supermarkets or Bookers cash and carry);

Laundry (Pinnies and tea towels);

Setting up the hall (tables, chairs, table cloths, plates and cutlery, cake covers, leaflets etc)

Setting up the kitchen (mugs, cups, saucers, machines, tea, coffee etc)

Taking the cakes from the freezer to thaw in the fridge

Baking Cakes. (This would need to be discussed with Lissie beforehand to ensure Food Standards Agency requirements are met).

Full staff training will be given in accordance with the Food Safety and Hygiene regulations.

If you feel that you'd like to work with the team or know someone who you think might please speak to Garth and Lissie.

AIM UK&I

If you would like to join AIM UK & Ireland, please speak to me or email courses@aimukandireland.com. The website www.aimukandireland.com contains more information.

Watford Media

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