

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 18 February - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking

Sunday 25 February - 10:30AM. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 03 March - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking

ADVANCED NOTICE

Thriving with young children

Learning Outcomes

- Identifies healthy and unhealthy parent-child interactions in order to help parents meet their children's Core Emotional Needs
- Taps into the power of the community
- Tips on managing stress in marriage from a demanding schedule

24th April, Online 8-9pm

GOOD PARENTING enough

Pentecost Sunday 19 May - 10:30AM.

International Sunday with food from around the world. Would someone like to coordinate the food?

A New Thing – Peter

For today's article on Peter I am indebted to my friend Ben Dannatt from the Thames Valley churches of Christ (with some editing from me).

General Facts

Originally a fisherman, turned Apostle. Perhaps the greatest travelling evangelist of all time. Leader of the early church. Approx 25 years old when called by Jesus. Married. Martyred approx 65-70AD (crucified upside down according to tradition).

thewatfordchurch@gmail.com

Peter - An Admirable Christian. Luke 5:1-11

Introduction

Peter will always go down as an admirable Christian. He was an everyday man who knew he was a real sinner. His life changed dramatically, eternally and intrinsically when he met Jesus.

Humility - Part 1

His radical, strong and wholehearted humility stands out such that Jesus responded with a miracle. A simple (seemingly innocuous) command from Jesus to go back out and fish again after a hard night's work doing the same thing (verse 4) would be met by most people as unnecessarily demanding and almost insulting. But here it is met with an incredible response. Peter obeys this command solely because it was Jesus who had asked him (see verse 5). He could so easily have looked to his own experience as a fisherman instead of the advice of a near stranger in Jesus. I am sure Peter looks back on this decision to trust Jesus and is filled with gratitude towards God and joy that he did answer "yes" in obedience.

Humility - Part 2

His immediate response to seeing the miracle again shows the true heart of a disciple of Jesus. He runs to Jesus and humbly bows before him. To Peter, Jesus had words of authority already (see Luke 4:32, 36 and Matthew 7:29) and maybe even the early threads of eternal life (see John 6:68). His humble recognition and declaration of his own spiritual inadequacy and tremendous weakness to someone who is clearly of God is answered with Jesus' wonderful response of "don't be afraid" (see verse 11) which was likely not what Peter was expecting to hear. It is followed by the life changing call to meet people and to evangelise.

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

Humility's Consequence

Peter's life changed from here on forever. Instead of being focused on fishing to make a living and dwelling on his own ungodliness, he became a tireless evangelist who helped proclaim Jesus' message to "Repent and believe the good news" (Mk 1:15, Matt 4:17). He became the leader of the church following Jesus' ascension (Matt 16:17-19). He became a vessel which God would use to proclaim his glory including his message of salvation via repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38), to demonstrate his power, to perform miracles and to help people to be saved all via the influence of the Holy Spirit.

His life and character emulated that of Jesus and culminated in a glorious martyrdom in which he laid down his life for the Lord and was crucified as Jesus had been. His death by crucifixion upside-down before entering into eternal life and glory further expressed his humility and obedient submission towards God.

Conclusion

Peter's receiving of Jesus' grace and power changed the course of his life forever and he is remembered as a true hero. Most importantly, his urgent and wholehearted response to the word of Christ is remembered by God now as he spends eternity with him, the rest of the apostles and all those who would call on him and come after him now and though the course of all time.

God bless, Ben Dannatt

Don't forget the daily devotional podcasts accompany the 'A New Thing' teaching and preaching series. You can find them in the Watford podcast feed (below) or my personal podcast — RSS feed: <https://audioboom.com/channels/4909728.rss>

AIM – Spiritual Life

The next AIM module is 'spiritual life'. Topics include: Personal spiritual growth; men and



women of the word; personal righteousness; prayer; fasting; biblical meditation; spiritual disciplines; creative spirituality; spiritual reading; spirituality and suffering; finances; time management and more. If this is something of interest to you, please book the date: 23 March 2024. Anyone who would like to attend on the day, without taking the rest of the course can do so for £20. More details on the website (<https://aimukandireland.com/>). More information contact us on: courses@aimukandireland.com

New Staff

As most will know, we are working towards employing someone new on the staff of the church. This person will focus on the youth element (preteens and teens) and receive training in general ministry from Malcolm and other members of the congregation.

Watford Media

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj9Qa8D9zumJZdoAtARDUww>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-1aef90>