

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. December 9th 2007

Who Is Jesus - Immanuel

Word:Key points from Sunday's sermon



1. God with us : Immanuel : God IS a 'With US God' **Im**=with; **Anu** = us/we; **EI** =God
In creation God **was with us**.. he walked in the garden with Adam and Eve. Then they had turned to their own ways of running their lives. Separation was inevitable. Yet God did not want to be separate.. his whole creative purpose his whole being is to be one with us. to be united with us. to be our friend to make his home with us But the With US God did not stop speaking he spoke through: Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph etc He made covenants, He guided them through their leaders Moses Joshua the Judges and then the prophets. and he ruled through their kings.
Isaiah 7: 730BC Ahaz King of Judah was very afraid (verse 2) of the political power struggles that threatened his life. Isaiah the prophet calmed him (verse 6)The promise of 'God with us' from Isaiah was accompanied by a sign : a baby being born to a young woman. The challenge was would Ahaz trust in God despite the overwhelming circumstances he faced from three other nations opposing him . Isaiah is saying :**God is with us : though bad may come**.. God will not abandon his people. He does not leave them alone. **The sign is about waiting and trusting God**.. for the age of the child when he can tell right from wrong would be about 12 years old. A long wait and a great risk to take. Immanuel is promise **of encouragement** in the face of stiff opposition and over bearing circumstances,. Building on this is the perspective of Immanuel that Mathew presents, some 700 years later, and some 40 years after Jesus resurrection :

2. With Us God – Came to us, God wants to makes himself visible. . Does this through the Incarnation **John 1 :1-4,14** : Logos became flesh and dwelt(made his home) among us **Matt 1:18**: Immanuel : God with us :.. **And so God came to us himself** through another young girl Mary and through birth of a baby.

God in Jesus : **as** a child religious leaders went and listened to him teach in the temple. Everyone went to him with their questions. He had the authority to cast out demons in his own name, Jesus had power to heal. He did not sin. He was executed for no reason of his own making. He is royalty and a servant (Philippians 2 :) he is the shepherd of the flock. So humble he offered his life for us

Jesus was one of us: he shared our sorrows grief's and was in every way tempted as we are. He took upon himself our very being, our feelings, our emotions, he could empathise and sympathise **Jesus went to work** with the fishermen, went right to the **heart of the funeral** of a child, into the homes of those who opposed him , dining and laughing at the parties and wedding, He wept when his best friend died, He called small children to him and embraced. **He embraced the dregs of society**, the outcast, and the rejects : and at the same time he went to those who exploited them to show them Gods love too. **Jesus was Immanuel dying the death** of a criminal in the worst from of execution known the humanity. Yet in his execution **he identified with the most sinful**.. .. he died between two proven criminals and brought hope to the as one of them realised when he was.

3. With Us God IS : remains and IS with us

The resurrection established his eternal relationship with us. **John 14 : 23,25, 27 John16 : 7**. The Holy Spirit is God.He is sent to us as a gift of God so that God may make His home with us. Need to spend time with God . Take time apart. Take him to work in to your family etc. He will and does shine through you ... A soldier once said to **Florence Nightingale** as she went around the yard in the Crimea: '**You're Christ to me**' and then fell back and died. How true for those who **Mother Theresa** spent herself for , how true for these slaves **William Wilberforce** amongst many others gave his health and years to free them. How true for some one close to you who has seen the light of Gods love in your heart .



Witness:Questions to discuss

1. Taking Isaiah & Ahaz's difficult situation are there power struggles you recognise in the home at work amongst friends where God's wisdom is particularly needed? Have you asked God to speak to you about the way to respond?
2. Read Philippians 2: Jesus is Royal and lived as a servant. How would you define humility from this description of Jesus' actions and character? What other words besides humility would you use to describe the nature of Immanuel in Jesus.
3. How would you describe the ideal companion for you? What is the heart of companionship?
4. John 14:23. If you imagine your life as a house, a home, where is the Holy Spirit sitting today? What do different rooms represent in your life and which rooms are you comfortable with the Holy Spirit to live in? Is there space He has yet to enter?
5. Phil 2: What prevents you from 'not grasping' (holding on to) the things you think you have a right to?
6. Take time to pray and to thank God for Jesus – Immanuel. Praise Jesus for who He is. Confess the times and places in your life where you have been overwhelmed with anxiety and fear, as Ahaz was. And ask God to strengthen you to be able to stand firm in faith (As Isaiah encouraged Ahaz to do) for God is with us.