

The Corona Chronicle.

Being Church in Partial lockdown.

Sunday May 9th

West Worthing Evangelical Church. Rugby Road

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

'As I walked through the wilderness of this world. I lighted on a certain place where was a Den, and laid me down in that place to sleep; and, as I slept, I dreamed a dream. I dreamed; and behold, I saw a man clothed with rags, standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden upon his back. I looked, and saw him open the book and read therein; and as he read, he wept and trembled; and, not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, "What shall I do?"

In this story of Pilgrims Progress John Bunyan speaks of a man under conviction of sin . The Bible speaks of this being the work of the Holy Spirit . Our Lord spoke about the Holy Spirit convicting the world of sin

John 16

⁵"But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** ⁹**of sin,** because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰**of righteousness,** because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹**of judgment,** because the ruler of this world is judged."

The Holy Spirit here is described as a 'Helper' who will abide with the believer. John 14v16 . Although He came into the world the world cannot receive Him. But a true believer's life was quickened by the Holy Spirit who did a work in that life causing conviction of sin, repentance and faith leading to being born again.

We have been looking at the story of Joseph and we come in Genesis Chapter 42 to Joseph's brothers coming to Egypt to buy grain because in Canaan they also had experienced famine .

Jacob had heard that they were selling grain in Egypt and ordered his sons to go. v1. He notices that they are looking at each other with guilty faces but does not know the reason why. They had lived a lie for twenty years telling their father that Joseph was dead although in fact they had sold him into slavery. There was a guilty fear in what they had done. This had pricked their conscience. But God had a purpose and plan for Jacob and his brothers.

God's providence means He can use evil actions of men to further His plan. The guilty fear of the brothers had a purpose leading them to see that they are wretched and God is Holy.



Down in Egypt.

Joseph was the administrator of the grain. When the brothers arrived they bowed before this Prince of Egypt, but they did not recognise that he was their brother because Joseph chose not to reveal himself to them. They had bowed before him in his dream twenty years before. God's revelation will always come true in time.

Now God was guiding Joseph to be an instrument of correction and restoration of his brothers.

Joseph: "You are spies..... You want to see the nakedness of the land."

Brothers: "No! We just want to buy food. We are all one man's sons living in Canaan." V12

They say there are twelve brothers, that one is with the Father and the other is dead.

Joseph sent them to prison for three days, and then gave the terms of their release.

At first it was one person to go and get Benjamin to bring him back to prove that they were telling the truth and not spies.

But then after three days they could go back, leave one in prison, and return with Benjamin. (Remember Benjamin was the only true brother of Joseph whose mother Rachel had died; the others were stepbrothers).

Then Joseph brings an act of grace to the prisoners.

"Do this and live for I fear God."

He invokes the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The one whom Noah walked with. The Hebrew word for God Elohim not a Pagan god of Egypt. He points to the one who can save them, because Joseph had trusted God.

The Holy Spirit is convicting the brothers in a more intense way. They do not know that Joseph is standing before them. There is no reason why the difficulties that they are facing now are linked in how they treated Joseph. But they are. This is a work of the Holy Spirit is His purpose and plan to bring the family back to Egypt.

They are now convinced that the actions against Joseph have resulted in this difficulty.

I know not how the Spirit moves,

Convincing men of sin,

Revealing Jesus through His word

Creating faith in Him.

That they came under deep conviction of sin was purely a work of God. In Canaan they were uneasy with going down to Egypt. But now something radical was happening.

Response from Joseph.

They still did not know that this Prince was their brother for he turned Himself away and wept. V24. Tears of joy. Because he loved his brothers even in after the way they had treated him.

God's love is the same.

We have treated Him badly with our sin. Joseph suffered. Jesus suffered on the cross. When we see that, acknowledge our sin and realise we cannot save ourselves and then say sorry. There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents.

A Great deal must take place before Joseph is reconciled to his brothers. Simeon is bound as a hostage. Jacob must be convinced to send Benjamin to Egypt.

A true believer.

God calls us, produces regeneration in us, so that we respond with repentance, faith, and obedience. The brothers responded with true repentance which we shall see led them to faith and obedience.



The Letter Before Puzzle

Jesus told a story about mustard seeds. What did he say? Look at each letter in the puzzle and think of what letter comes right before it in the alphabet. Then you will be able to read what Jesus said! Like when the puzzle letter is Q, the letter before Q in the alphabet is P, and if the puzzle says F, the letter right before F is E.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

"JU JT UIF TNBMMFTU PG BMM

UIF TFFET, CVU XIFO JU IBT

HSPXO JU JT UIF HSFBUFTU PG

TISVCT BOE CFDPNFT B USFF, TP

UIBU UIF CJSET PG UIF BJS

DPNF BOE NBLF OFTUT JO JUT

CSBODIFT."

Hymns, Prayers and Bible Readings

John 16v5-8 NKJV

⁵“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸**And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** ⁹of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

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Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every bitter thought,
Every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees,
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
‘Finished!’ the victory cry.

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Prayers

APPROACHING GOD IN PRAYER

From Hebrews 4, Ephesians 3 etc.

Let us approach God's throne with confidence:

**we shall receive mercy,
and find grace to help
in time of need. Amen.**

For those in need . . .

Upon . . . have mercy, Lord:

we entrust them to Your care.

For the world . . .

In . . . Lord, may peace and justice rule:

let Your love prevail.

For the Church . . .

O God, you are able to do immeasurably more than we ask or think by the power that is at work among us: . . .

To Glory be to God in the Church and in Christ Jesus:

for ever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSING OUR SINS

From Isaiah 57

O God, You are eternal, and Your name is Holy; You live in a high and holy place - yet also with the humble and the penitent:

revive our spirits and renew our hearts.

You have punished us, You have hidden Your face from us:

we confess our selfishness and our wilful ways.

O God, forgive us,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Look on Us in Your Tender Love

Lord our God,

of might inconceivable,

of glory incomprehensible,

of mercy immeasurable,

of goodness unspeakable;

O Master, look down on us in Your tender love,

and show us and those who pray with us

Your rich mercy and compassion.

Amen.

Source: The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom