

Rule of Life Series 2 - Session 5 Notes 9th February 2021

Our study theme for this week was the Jesus' Mission Statement, and it was lovely to see 13 people online, who were Nick and Sarah Jarrett-Kerr, Ian and Sonya Stocker, Avril Chadwick, Kay Friend, Matthew Thomson, Frances Urwin, Margaret Morris, Jonathan and Viv Hayward, Wendy Reakes, and Gillian Durbin

Our objectives for each session are to engage in deeper conversation and prayer, and each session of the 6 focuses on how each episode in Jesus life and ministry might achieve the following points.

- **Help us to know and experience the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge and understanding.**
- **With the help of the Holy Spirit, encourage us to live our lives as apprentices and followers of Jesus**
- **Establish small steps that would lead surely and quietly to inner transformation.**

There was general enthusiasm with the possibility of keeping the Group going through Lent with a Lent study possibly based on Matt's suggestion of Thomas Merton's book "Lent and Easter Wisdom". If anybody would like to lead a session, please let us know.

After check in time, we read Luke 4:14-30 and in studying this, we focused on three main questions focusing on what this passage teaches us about our Rule of Life

- Why the worshippers at the Synagogue, at first impressed with what Jesus said, then turn against him?
- What does this passage mean to us in terms of identifying with Jesus' Mission?
- What are the barriers that we face from declaring our mission?

The discussion around these aspects brought out a number of themes and points:-

- The listeners thought that the Isaiah passage read by Jesus just applied to Israel and were angry to learn that the mission of Jesus was much more radical - far wider (beyond Israel) and far deeper - not just physical blindness, poverty and imprisonment but spiritual as well
- This was a very small synagogue - probably about the size of Butcombe Church and Nazareth was only a few hundred in population
- They saw Jesus as the son of Joseph and were not ready to see him as the son of God
- Love extends beyond borders and requires us to look beyond our boundaries
- Just as then, the mission of Christ goes far beyond the established church and into and through the community of believers
- Larry Harvey (From Menace to Miracle) a good example of the miraculous and transformative power of the gospel
- Seeing Christ in everyone - Brassed Off movie was mentioned as an example of community action (losing your job and reclaiming your soul)
- Jesus walking back through the angry crowd who wanted to throw him off the cliff. Miracle or his persona?
- Watching out for complacency in viewing the story with the benefit of 2000 years of hindsight. Guarding against over-familiarity with texts we have heard and read so many

times (as the Synagogue listeners had at that time with the Isaiah passages). Do we sometimes take the scriptures for granted?

- Pray the Lord's Prayer for example meaningfully and as a conversation with the Living God rather than just reciting the words by rote
- As with last week, we noted the way in which Jesus was steeped in the Scriptures (he quoted the Psalms and Isaiah the most) and in our Rule of Life we should be too

The session concluded with open prayer time, followed by the Lord's Prayer and the Grace, concluding just before 9.00.