

JC GUIDE. 18 April 2010

Welcome and introduction: Andrew Baughen (Vicar)

Songs: *Awake Awake O Zion; All My Days; Light of the World*

Prayers: Rebekah Pascall

This is JC at this point children go to their activities (see overleaf for details)

Bible Reading: Isaiah 55 read by Laura Stockwell. Page 742 of the church Bibles

Talk: Isaiah 55: *Seek the Lord while he may be found*

Speaker: Andrew Baughen

Solo: *Father of Everlasting Grace*

Reflection songs: *Praise is Rising; Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Communion - including admission of first communion candidates

Hymn: *In Christ Alone*

Closing prayer and announcements

Please stay for refreshments served in the church.

Events coming up

Evening Service tonight 6pm

An informal service with prayer, readings, a Bible talk and time for questions. This week's topic: How we can know God's blessings (Ephesians 1)

The Clerkenwell Hustings Wednesday April 21 at 7pm.

In a centuries old tradition, St James Clerkenwell will be hosting hustings for the forthcoming parliamentary elections. The local candidates from the main parties standing in Islington South will be there and there will be plenty of time for audience questions. All welcome.

Strictly Come Married! Saturday April 24 from 10am to 4pm, St James Crypt
A marriage refresher day - practical teaching for all couples on building strong and lasting relationships. Childcare and lunch provided. Please book place in advance.

Christianity Explored Wednesdays 28 April - 26 May, 7-9pm, St James Crypt
An informal course introducing the main teaching of Jesus and the relevance of Christianity to our lives today. You are welcome to just come and listen or ask any questions you want. Hot meal served 7pm, course from 7.30 to 9pm.

More Information

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NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

Isaiah 55: Seek the Lord while he may be found.

An amazing invitation backed by the promises of God himself

- Freely pardoned (v7) and endowed with splendour (v5)

What makes this invitation different?

Invitation is to receive what you desperately need (v1-2)

Q: are you thirsty for what your labour doesn't satisfy? (v1)

A: feast on riches that delight the soul (v2)

Invitation is to buy what you can never afford

Q: how can you buy a priceless gift if you have no money? (v1)

A: your soul may live by God's promise of faithful love (v3, 7)

Invitation is to know what a mere mortal can never understand

Q: how can you seek the Lord when his thoughts are higher than ours? (v8-9)

A: God freely brings new creation reality at the command of his word (v10-13)

Why does the invitation still need to be made?

V1 come x4; v2 listen, eat; v3 come, hear; v4 see; v6 seek, call; v7 turn

1. But don't realise we're thirsty

2. But don't realise we can't pay and must pay

3. But don't realise how much more there is to life than we dare dream possible:

- You will eat what is good and the richest fare (v2)

- Your soul will delight and live (v2-3)

- You will summon nations (v5)

- You will go out with joy and be led in peace (v12)

- All creation will celebrate with you (v12-13)

How will we respond to the invitation?

Seek God (v6) & Turn to God (v7)

Hear God (v11) & Be led forth by God (v12)

- The invitation will one day close: will you seek the Lord while he may be found?

Questions for discussion this week in Life Groups

What makes an invitation good or bad to receive?

Look again at the aspects of the invitation in ch55. What exactly are we invited to?

Why is true thirst so crucial to accepting the invitation? (See also Jer 2:1-13)

What other ways do people attempt to deal with their thirst? (See Rom 1:18-25)

In the talk we learnt that it is crucial to our seeing the rich fare of the gospel to understand that we must pay for it but can never pay for it ourselves. Why is that the central mystery of God's covenant of faithful love? (See Rom 8:1-11)

People miss out on the benefits of salvation because like Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*, they know they are free but the old life of debt, scarcity, duty and works-based performance still lives with them. Can you see the danger?

How does the invitation of Isaiah 55 transform us with delight in our soul?

How does Jesus extend the invitation again in Revelation 22:12-20?

What is the implication of Rev 22 and Is55 (esp. v6) for us as people of mission?

RESPONSE.

Please use this space for your comments and questions then pop this detachable form into the collection. Please see overleaf to request a welcome pack etc.