

*Commitment to
Christ*

Christ Church
Home Groups
Autumn2024

*Christ Church
Theme Verse
2024*

***Live a life
worthy of the
Lord and please
him in every way:
bearing fruit in
every good work,
growing in the
knowledge of God
Colossians 1:10***

Study One: Are you ready to meet Christ?
Mark 10:17-31

WELCOME

What are your biggest questions about Jesus?
What questions do those around you have? What
do you think society thinks about Jesus?

When you think of total commitment to Christ
what is it that is unsettling about the idea for
you? Maybe it is the fear and ridicule you could
face. Could it be what he wants you to do, to
give up or take on?

With all the other issues of life you may have to
deal with, this can be just too much; whatever it
is we all struggle with this. In this series of
studies, we will see the challenge of Jesus, the
claims of Jesus but also his comfort and his peace
as we continue to journey with him.

WORSHIP

'God so loved that he gave'...Jesus for you and to
you...praise The Father for 'his indescribable gift'!

WORD

Please Read Mark 10:17-31

What are the admirable qualities the wealthy man displays?

How did Jesus reveal the area of weakness and willingness in the man's heart?

How did the man respond to Jesus' call; what do you think he'd decided which made him act in this way?

Fear can often be the greatest enemy of truth, it can paralyse people who search for truth, how do you see fear working the rich man's life?

Where do you see these hindrances in your own life or our church community? What stops us from following Jesus?

How did Jesus look at the man? What was Jesus' attitude and emotion? What encouragement can you glean from this?

What conclusion does Jesus draw from this for those who are listening and watching what did he promise to those who follow him?

WORK AND WITNESS

Do you ever ask a religious question that can hide your deeper questions? Jesus asked the man to give away his wealth and that was his own obstacle to faith; if you were the man what would Jesus ask you to do? What do you think he asking us to do as a church?

Study Two: The Claims of Christ
John 8:51-59

WELCOME

'Fake news' is all the rage and 'fact checkers' are a new thing in society but before this we all had our own ways of checking for truthfulness or of not trusting various people or news outlets. Some people think religion is all fake news. How do you check for truth, perhaps instinctively?

WORSHIP

'Your Word is Truth', Thank God that he is the source of truth and a reliable rock on which to stand.

WORD

Please Read John 8: 51-59

Throughout his ministry Jesus expressed a unique claim to special intimacy with God; what examples of this claim do you find in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus could say *'if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death?'*

How does this claim about power over death show Jesus understanding of his own equality with God?

Jesus said *'Before Abraham was born I Am'*. Have a look at Exodus 3:14 what do you think what he was claiming for himself?

Imagine hearing somebody say these things today what conclusions would you draw about that person, how would they make you feel? How would we as a society regard them?

If somebody did make those claims, what evidence would you look for to evaluate those claims?

If everything Jesus said here is true, what difference would it make to yourself, to our church to our community and to the world at large?

WORK AND WITNESS

More specifically how can you test what Jesus said to be true for yourself? How can you have confidence in who he is today? How could you try out one of the truths about Jesus in your own life and work and see what happens

Study Three: The Character of Christ
John 13:1-17

WELCOME

Have you ever been deceived by someone who turned out not to be what he or she seemed? How did you find out the truth and how did you respond to this?

WORSHIP

'The Servant King' The Son of man came to serve. Praise Jesus for his servant heart and ask him to help to now understand who he is.

WORD

What did Jesus know in verse 3 what did he do as a result of that knowledge in verse 4?

How does his action seemingly contradict what we'd expect of a person who had such knowledge?

Why do you think Peter protests at having his feet washed by Jesus? How do you relate to his uncomfortableness?

Imagine you were Peter; how would you feel? Would you find it hard to let Jesus serve you? With whatever is going on in our own lives do we need Jesus to serve us?

Does the phrase *'let Jesus serve you'* feel strange?

Jesus describes himself as *'Teacher and Lord'* in verse 13 and 15; How would you describe the character of this sort of Lord and Teacher? How does that speak to how we are to live as Christians.

How can leaders lose their servant spirit? Have you seen that happen?

Jesus exhibited the greatest self-image and the greatest self-sacrifice; how are these two qualities demonstrated in this menial task of washing feet?

How is Jesus now the example for us to follow?

If Jesus is a Lord and Teacher who has this character, how does that affect you?
How may he wash you today?

WORK AND WITNESS

What opportunities are there for you to follow in Jesus steps this week and how we he needs to serve you first so that's you can act in his strength?

Study Four: Rest within work

Matthew 11:28-30

WELCOME

What do you do to relax? Do you even relax? Do you feel really refreshed by those things or are they just diversions?

WORSHIP

'I have calmed and quiet my soul like a weaned child with its mother' says the psalmist. Spend time now in silence asking Jesus to give you his rest as you prepare to study

WORD

What kinds of things bring you stress? How do those stresses distract you from what is truly important in your own life?

In this brief passage what does Jesus' offer?
What part does Jesus' play and what part do the weary and burdened play?

Think of some of the inadequate ways people try and find rest; why are those unsatisfying? In what ways do you feel weary or burdened?

What you think Jesus means by '*finding rest in him*' does it mean to stop doing everything and relinquish all responsibility for example?

Look at v29 how does taking '*taking the yoke*' seem to contradict accepting '*rest*' and how might these two ideas be brought together? What do you think his yoke is?

What else does Jesus tell us to do in v29 why is this part of taking this yoke?

How can being *'gentle and humble of heart'* be characteristic of strength? Do you think they go together?

Think of the various forms of the yoke of Jesus has taken in your own life in what sense if you found Christ's yoke *'easy and his burden light'* as he describes it in v30?

Christians distinguish between doing good works out of their own efforts, often for the wrong reasons, and doing good works out of love and trust for Christ. Is this so easy to distinguish and how can we tell one from another?

In what areas do we feel the strain of exhaustion in self-effort even in good and worthwhile involvements?

WORK AND WITNESS

One of the some of the practical ways you can come to him in the midst of work and stress and strain and accept his rest and how will you put these into practise in the coming week For further study Please read Hebrews 4-1-11 and note the focus on 'rest' and how it applies today

Study Five: Help in Hostility
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

WELCOME

How many Bone China tea sets do you own? How many old mugs? Which are most valuable or precious to you? Which one would you relate to as an image of yourself?

WORSHIP

Thank God that he calls us to himself no matter who we are and makes us into his treasured possession.

WORD

What are the sharp contrasts Paul draws in this passage and what surprised you most about them?

How does Paul describe people in v7? What do you think is his point? How do you feel about being described in this way?

What does God seemingly accomplish by placing the treasure of the gospel in fragile earthen vessels?

How does Paul describe himself in 8-9 and how can you explain a person's resilience under the weight of such difficulties? Have you ever felt like this and wanted to give up?

In vv10-11 what does Paul say that he is carrying around? Do you find this strange? What do you think he means?

What does this mean for '*living*' as a Christian and how do you think this is possible? Can you think about where this is picked up at the end of the Communion Service?

What is the result of such constant closeness with the death of Jesus in vv10 and 12? What hope does Paul affirm verses 13 and 14?

What is the connection between Jesus' resurrection that gives Paul courage to speak out in vv 13 to 15 and have you ever felt this?

What does Paul say is happening to him in verse 16 and have you ever experienced this? How do you think you can enter more deeply into this experience? What practical steps can help?

In what ways have afflictions altered the focus of Paul and his associates in verses 17-19? What contrast does he draw between the seen and unseen?

WORK AND WITNESS

How do we need to alter our focus this week?
What practical steps and encouragement can we
take to support one another in this?

Study Six: Empathy with the Flattering

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

WELCOME

What some of the ways that people show empathy for others? Are you an empathetic person?

WORSHIP

Thank God that he draws near to those in need lifts up the broken and sends his Spirit to be our comforter

WORD

The Writer describes Jesus as better than Moses in the preceding passages to show how much greater Jesus is. In what ways does he show that Jesus serves as the believer's high priest in our passage?

Reading only verse 14 what would we get as an impression of Christ as high above us weak mortals? How does vv 15-16 assure that we can confidently approach God?

In what ways do you think Jesus would have been tempted in v15 throughout his life and ministry? What Bible passages can you think that's might point to Jesus being tempted, think about the whole of the Gospel story?

In chapter 5: 1-4 note the difference between the human high priest and Christ what do you think that means for you now?

How does God validate Christ as the High Priest in v5-6?

Even though Jesus knew he was the High Priest what was his experience in v7, do you think that important for him and us?

What did Jesus have to learn in vv8-9? How did he learn this and how does this give you confidence in that he understands and empathises you with you and your own struggles?

What are the results of Jesus faithful obedience in v8-10?

WORK

Consider ways you faltered in faith or in obedience. Where do you need most assurance that Jesus empathises with you in your weakness and in your sin?

Study Seven: Strength within Powerlessness
2 Corinthians 12: 6-10

WELCOME

Have you ever felt powerless how do you deal with those situations what was your response to feeling powerless?

WORSHIP

Praise God that he gives power to the powerless and yet deals with us in gentleness

WORD

What attitude had Paul developed towards his own weaknesses?

What danger did Paul see in the unique spiritual blessings he had been given? Can you recognise that danger in yourself and church?

Paul given a *'thorn in the flesh'* by God; what good could this *'thorn'* accomplish in his own life?

What do you think the explanations for Paul's *'thorn in the flesh'* might be? Do you think you might have something similar and do you think it could be given to you by God

What does Paul pray for? How many times does he pray? What do you think this indicates Paul's relationship with Christ?

Have a look at v 9. For you, what is the most powerful part of Christ's response to Paul?

Have you ever witnessed the power of Christ in weakness; in your own or someone else's life?

How did Christ's answer transform Paul's attitude toward his thorn in vv 9-10

What is Christ's assurance in v9? Do you think that applies to all Christians today and how could that help you transform your own attitude to problems of powerlessness

Look at the list of difficulties in v 10 do you think Paul is discouraged and what is his response to these? Can you relate to this list in our own life?

How could you delight in these for Christ's sake? In what areas could you say, *'when I am weak then I am strong'*?

WORK AND WITNESS

How can you pray for people and places that need to know the power of Christ even amidst suffering our trials

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