



NEWS BULLETIN

RELEASE DATE: **28th March 2024**

Pastor's - Points to Ponder No 2

At our morning service on Palm Sunday (24th March) Pastor Tim brought us a message entitled "Jesus the King worth shouting about!" based on Zechariah 9:9-10 and Matthew 21:1-17.

Where do we look to find ultimate joy? ●Joy that will sustain us through suffering. ●Joy that won't stop when the holiday ends, or the money runs out, or the game finishes ●Joy that will last forever. According to the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9-10, true joy, lasting joy, ultimate joy, is found in Jesus.



For the various Home Group meetings that took place on Tuesday 26th March Pastor Tim set us a series of 4 Questions to help us reflect on the passages and their message.

Bob Travers led one of the Home Groups and his thoughts are shown below each question in blue italic text. These thoughts were to help group discussions get underway and we are sharing them with you.

Question One:- Does that mean it's wrong to find joy in other places? Can you think of any scriptures that show us that it is right to enjoy the good gifts God has given us?

John 10:10 "I have come that you might have life in all its fulness"

Psalms 37:4 "Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "

Question Two:- How do we live with the tension of enjoying God's good gifts, against enjoying God?

We need to be thankful for what He has given us but to maintain only a loose hold on it. If we are too focussed on the gifts of God rather than the giver, it can easily become idolatry. They become like gods and we are breaking the first commandment.

Question Three:- Why is it foolish to find our ultimate joy in the good things God gives?

Precisely because God is the source of the gifts. He is eternal, the gifts are temporal (they pass in time). Job 1:21 "The Lord has given, the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Question Four:- The teaching on Sunday taught us that Jesus is our king who is, just, alive, approachable, peaceable, and returning. That is...

- He will judge the whole of humanity justly,
- He rose from the dead and secured our resurrection,
- He is the King of kings who welcomes sinners,
- He has secured peace with God for us,
- He will return to this earth in power and glory.

Which of these aspects of who Jesus is brings you the most joy? Why? Has that always been the case?

A case could be made for any or all of them, possibly depending on how outward looking we are feeling at the time. The fact that God is always right and always just is one I have regarded as of prime importance but the facts that He welcomes sinners, that Jesus died to secure peace with God for us, that he conquered death through His resurrection and is, therefore, in a position to guarantee us eternal life through faith in Him together with the that He will return to this earth in power and glory are all equally important.