

Aware of the victory

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Matt Fell 19/01/14

Introduction

This week we finished our series “Aware” by looking at the victory the church has over Satan sin and death and the mission we have to share this news with the world.

Scriptures

Luke 10:17-22

Genesis 3:14-15

Romans 8:14-19

Overview

Jesus’ disciples return from sharing the good news of God’s Kingdom on earth and are shocked and full of joy at what they’ve seen – even the demons flee at the name of Jesus! The source of our surprise and joy is that they have been given an authority that doesn’t naturally belong to them. Jesus says to them (and to us!) ‘I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy’. With these words Jesus taps into the heart of the drama of the bible: from Genesis chapter 3 onwards, the Bible anticipates the coming of one who will bruise the head of the serpent whilst himself being bruised on the heel. Jesus is the serpent crusher and he comes to be our victor, even though he must be bruised by Satan sin and death to do so.

Because Jesus has suffered loneliness, rejection, temptation, shame, fear and even death on our behalf, we now have his authority to trample over the works of the devil. We looked at how Jesus’ victory makes us:

- Courageous, not cowardly (we can boldly tread on the devil’s work and take action)
- Connected, not cocky (our victory comes from Jesus – in him we are connected Children of God invited to pray and depend on him)
- Called for mission, not to coast (the world needs to hear that death is defeated, that sins can be forgiven and that God is good; the world waits on tip toes to hear that message!)

Questions

1. Why did the disciples return full of joy after encountering demons?
2. How have we previously felt when thinking about Satan? Does Luke chapter 10 challenge that?
3. Think about the temptations and accusation we looked at last week, how does Jesus’ victory allow us to stand up to the devil’s attacks with confidence?
4. How might the knowledge that we are Children of God (courageous and connected) shape our outlook on life?
5. Romans 8 says that all of creation is waiting (on tip toes!!) for the revealing of the Sons of God – what might this mean for our work colleagues/friends and family and how we witness to them?

Tags

Victory, Authority, The Gospel, Adoption, Evangelism, Satan, Devil, Christus Victor