

## **Small Group Notes: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010 – Simon Cragg**

### **Son of Living God**

**Aim:** To see that Jesus was who he said he was, the Son of God, and to see that this makes a difference to our lives today.

#### **Introduction**

Prince Andrew goes to Farmhouse whilst on duty in RAF in Falklands. Was asked 'Do your parents own a decent house?' Actually they own several...  
He looked like a standard pilot, but in actual fact, he was someone special.

Peter meeting Jesus...did he realise there was something special about him? Or did it take a while...

#### **Jesus' question and Peter's response**

- Peter meeting Jesus till making this declaration: what happened between here in his thinking for him to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God?  
- The story: Peter and Jesus – Peter realised there was something different about him...  
What would have we have said if we had experienced what the disciples had, had Jesus asked us, who am I?

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#### **1. What they Expected**

- Baby expectations? What did I expect? Had a general idea of what to expect, but some things I got wrong, and some things we just different...

2 Sam 2:48-51, Gen 3:15, Deut 18:15-18.

- (i) Restoration of Israel: in exile and taken over by the Romans. Salvation from enemies, from sin, from unfaithfulness to covenant.
- (ii) Through an anointed one: Hope for the restoration of Israel is tied to God's raising up a descendant of David as "the Lord's anointed one". Somewhere after the OT was written, this thought of 'Messiah' was an expectation based on OT passages. Sent to do God's will in a special way.
- (iii) Fulfilment of Old Testament: Kings always failed, true king of Israel. Moral failure of covenant, Isaiah's visions, Prophecies...

#### **2. What they Saw (Eyewitness)**

What led Peter (and later the other disciples) to see Jesus as the Son of God, the Christ?

Sonship communicates status and authority: In honour-shame culture, when the 'boss' could not attend the would send his son. The Son acted as legal representative. It was as if the Father was there. In honouring the son, the host would be honouring the father, and in disrespecting the Son, they would be disrespecting the Father. It is a relational characteristic which reveals a special relationship with God.

- INTIMACY: 'Abba': a new intimacy and way of understanding God, hence 'son'.

- AUTHORITY: 'Amen': authority to represent God. Forgave people, performed miracles, authority over nature.

Eye-witness Accounts – [Lee Strobel: eyewitness accounts would hold up in court.](#)

→ Key reasons for believing the eyewitness accounts (fire off)

1. Trustworthy: Gospel dating, eyewitness accounts: still within lifetimes of witnesses (60's, 70's, 80's) - "The two earliest biographies of Alexander the Great were written by Arrian and Plutarch more than four hundred years after Alexander's death in 323BC yet historians consider them to be generally trustworthy"

2. No one disagrees: other accounts say Jesus was sorcerer who led Israel astray but none deny he did miracles. Resurrection: no one denied it, 500 witnesses said it happened, and when Paul wrote that in 1 Cor 15 (creed dated to just a few years after resurrection)– the people who would corroborate the evidence would have been alive.

3. Non-Christian sources back up evidence. Jesus described as you would expect a non-Christian to account it (i.e. Josephus).

4. Mark's account influenced by Peter and yet there's loads of embarrassing accounts about him: 'ye of little faith', denials etc.

- Jesus fulfilled attributes of God, since 'Christ' would be God's representatives. (Profile evidence)

### **3. What they Experienced**

- Death and Resurrection: who else can save but God himself?
- Sending of Spirit: who else sends God's Spirit but God himself

*Led them to conclude that Jesus as the Son of God was in fact identified with God*

- They continued to worship him as Son of God, and the Good news spread throughout the world – why?
- Because they continued to experience him long after he had gone – verses...

[Different testimonies – Bryan – 'I get tingling feeling down my spine when I](#)

pray'...people prayed for, come up with great stories.

- We believe, not because the evidence looks good, or because this is a nice idea...but because this Jesus, this Lord, can be experienced, and known in relationship now!

#### **4. What difference does it make?**

##### **Implications and Applications**

**If Jesus was who he said he was, then what does this mean for us?**

We are drawn into the same relationship with the Father. New understanding of God

- Jesus at baptism: 'this is my Son with whom I am well pleased'
- We become 'Sons'
- So, baptised people – may today be special...

##### **Conclusion**

**Story** – Meeting Sam. Changed my life forever

Rethink romance, work on relationship, spend time together...as Christians we easily forget,

##### **Some Questions**

1. Do you believe that Jesus was who Peter said he was, the Son of God?
2. Have you ever 'experienced' Jesus? What was it like?
3. If Jesus was who he said he was, what difference does it make to our lives?
4. How would you describe your relationship with God? Do you feel closer now than when you first came to know him, or further away? Why?
5. How does Jesus change your understanding of what God is like?
6. If you met Jesus, what would you say to him?
7. If he asked you who you say he is, what would you say?
8. How can we help other people to know him in this way? Does the historical evidence help people or confuse them?
9. Coming into a relationship with God is like any kind of relationship. It needs work to build the intimacy and closeness. How do you work on your relationship with God?