

## Sermon Notes Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 'God's Big Story – Saviour'

In the New Testament, God himself takes the stage of history and enters the drama of human experience as a vulnerable baby with a purpose to 'seek and save what was lost' (Luke 19:9).

- How do you understand what it means to be 'lost' and in need of 'being saved'? Share something from your own experience and discuss what brings people to a recognition that they are 'lost'?

I John 3:8 reminds us that 'The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work'. From the beginning of the New Testament we see the curtain to the invisible, parallel world (the backstage of the theatre if you like) being pulled back to expose the reality of the unseen invisible powers. The events surrounding Jesus' birth were full of the supernatural (angels making several appearances) and then throughout Jesus' ministry starting with the temptation narrative, Jesus continuously contends with the devil and all his works (demons) as he announces the arrival of the Kingdom of God (Read Mark 1:9-20).

- In what ways can you identify the invisible (back stage) reality of the powers of darkness influencing and impacting on our world and your life today?

*'Belief in an unseen world forms a crucial dividing line of faith today. Many people get up, eat, drive their cars, work, make phone calls, tend to their children, and go to bed without giving a single thought to the existence of an unseen world. But according to the Bible, human history is far more than the rising and falling of people and nations; it is a staging ground for the battle of the universe'. Philip Yancey*

### How did Jesus destroy the works of the devil?

1. **By preaching, teaching and demonstrating the Kingdom of God** (Acts 1:3)

What is the Kingdom of God? How do you understand it?

2. **By contending for it in prayer.** Jesus knew that what happens front of stage (the physical world we occupy) is affected by what happens back stage, so he frequently withdrew in order to pray.

What does this suggest about the power and impact of prayer and how it might prevent bad things happening in ways we might never see? (Deliver us from evil!).

3. **By inviting people to follow him** (Mark 1:16-20) and take their place in this great enterprise of building his Kingdom and contending for righteousness and truth.

4. **By dying on a cross and rising again in glory.**

What encouragement does this give you to become more committed to prayer?

**'We face each day with the joy of a child and the courage of a warrior'.**

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