

Sunday Livechat 31.05.20

PENTECOST

Main theme: Jesus is as present via his Word as if he was actually there.

Welcome

Summary

Alex looked at the opening story of Luke 7 where Jesus is “amazed” by the centurion’s faith. What amazed Jesus is that this man doesn’t require Jesus’ presence - he stops Jesus coming to his house and refuses to come to Jesus himself. He has total confidence that Jesus would be as present simply by his word as if he came himself. Alex pointed us to Elisha in 2Kings4 (a story with reference throughout Luke 7) to show how even such a great Old Testament hero was still required to be present. But Jesus, his word is enough!

Of course we live in the absence of Jesus’ physical presence so this truth should be enormously reassuring for us! He is present - by his word.

Alex closed with three applications - a personal responsibility (how we grow), a corporate distinctive (what church is), and a Missional imperative (how others meet Jesus).

Questions for reflections

1. What most surprised you about the story we looked at today?
2. Did you notice in the story that twice the centurion prevents Jesus meeting him - why did you think this was?
3. What encouragement did it give you to know Jesus is present - by his word?
4. How was God challenging you about your understanding of his word? Do you treat the Bible as Jesus present?
5. What do you think the work of the Spirit is in this dynamic? (Alex didn’t teach this in the Sunday Connection but you could encourage people to the devotions where he does.)
6. What adjustment of your personal approach to the Bible should you make from today’s teaching?
7. As we move forward out of lockdown as a church how does this teaching inform what we prioritise? What must be present for us to be church?

Prayer

Notices:

Encourage people to our special week of prayer and listening, especially our Wednesday evening church wide meeting,