

Jesus Confronts His World (RV)

On the edge of the world of Greek culture brutally enforced by the Roman peace, there was a surge of religious enthusiasm in the backwaters of the Empire. A Jewish rabbi, Jesus, was storming the Galilean countryside by his preaching and extraordinary miracles announcing that God's Reign had come near. One of his Jewish followers, a Roman tax collector wrote of this early period in his Gospel according to Matthew. This new movement of Christianity would within three centuries dominate the world.

In Matthew's Gospel 8-13 Jesus' ministry was in growth mode. He kept preaching that "the kingdom of God was near" and with the preaching, he did miracles of healing and great power. The deaf heard, the dumb spoke and the blind saw. Demoniacs were cured and even nature itself responded to his commands. Bread was multiplied and storms were stilled at his command. Even the dead were raised! A spiritual warfare was erupting.

The Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem soon noticed this Galilean preacher, and recognised in him an enemy to their formal religion. However, there was no retreating for Jesus. Inevitably, the hostility to Jesus increased and became dangerous. His 12 followers, armed with the same supernatural power of the Lord Jesus would need to count the cost. Would they follow him and preach righteousness and incur all the struggles and venom of the enemy or would they fade back into the crowds and disappear? At this point of time decisions were being made by his hearers and the future was uncertain. However, Jesus knew that his course was determined. His fate would be crucifixion, but that was not to be the end. There would be his resurrection from the dead.

However, before that happened the battle had to be engaged. We invite you to a reading of Matthew :8-13 in the Bible Talks this term.



Wednesday Lunch Time Bible Talks

Bishop Reg Piper

18 October to 29 November 2023

St Michael's Church Hall

Corner Church & Market Streets

Times: 12.45 pm to 1.15 pm sharp

Doors open: 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm

Notes provided

Further Info: 0408 029 379 or regpiper@bigpond.com

All Welcome.

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Oct. 18	He heals the sick	Matt 8:1-22
Oct 25	He overpowers evil	Matt 8:23-9:17
Nov 01	He restores life	Matt 9:18-10:4.
Nov 08	He arms his troops	Matt 10:5-11:1
Nov 15	He expounds his cause	Matt 11:1-30
Nov 22	He engages his enemies	Matt 12:1-37
Nov 29	He speaks of his hearers	Matt 12:38-13:23

