

## Questions from "Bread" August 30<sup>th</sup> 09 for triplets:

### Outline of talk:

**Matthew 16:13-28 and Mark 1: 14-15**

**What is a Christian?** Is it by birth, or nationality, by attending services/mass, praying right things/doing right things?

John Ortberg tells the story of his dog Winston and how, in a rented house they were living in, he was desperate to find out what was on the other side of the garden hedge. Try as he could, he could not get through.

We all live in rented accommodation, our bodies, and the back garden would be equivalent to the universe in which we live. What lies beyond the "hedge" is a keen question for humans. Is there a God? Yet we only get to know when we die! What we need is someone to break through the hedge to tell us about God. And someone has....his name is Jesus.

***Jesus came not just to get us into heaven but to bring heaven to us.*** Huge misunderstanding for many...people think that to be a Christian is about getting ready for life on the other side of the hedge.....rather than about experiencing a relationship with someone who has broken into our world and wants us to experience his world breaking into ours.

Look at how Jesus describes the gospel. Mark 1: 14-15

1. Time has come, an era or new chapter, marked out by kingdom of God
2. Good news, it is near, available to us if we want it
3. It can be accessed by repentance (reviewing our plans for how we live) and belief (putting our confidence in Jesus and what he has done for us)

In other words the good news is that Jesus wants to be our teacher, the one who shows us how to access the life of God, here on earth.

### Questions:

1. If someone was to look at how you lived over the last 7 days, what would they conclude about who you say Jesus is? (Is he someone who forgives your sin and gets you into heaven, or do you live life expecting him to break into everyday, bringing heaven to those around you?)
2. What one area of your personal character is God challenging you to allow Him access to more, (to allow heaven (i.e. his way of doing things and his resources) to break in?
3. What one area of your wider life (friends, family, work, study, finances, ) do you want to see heaven break in in fresh ways.? What is the prayer you need to make and the action you need to take if this is to happen?