



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

17th October, 2022

Sunday Sermon: The Sower

The parable of the Sower is a clear picture of the gospel. Essentially, it speaks of the Sower (God) seeking to plant Seed (Jesus) in the Soil (Humanity – my soul).

There are two reasons for that. One is that there is nothing growing naturally that is either of value to God nor can it live because the ground is full of toxin (sin) which destroys anything that has any virtue. The second reason is that God is a generous, loving God who wants to place seed there that will grow effectively.

God did that by encapsulating Himself into an embryonic seed which contains all that He is but is of a measure that can enter the ground. Jesus was that incarnation. He became man – the Son of God.

And he came to earth and entered our 'ground' voluntarily exposing himself to human sin and subsequently died, enduring sin's optimum effect. But, He rose again so that, being now *immune*, sin cannot have any effect on Him.

That 'immune' Jesus will enter our soul, grow and flourish. It can expect no sustenance from the surrounding soil but can get nourishment - spiritual nourishment – from divine sources such as the word of God, fellowship and prayer.

Thus fed, it can grow and flourish until one day it is transplanted into the heavenly garden.

But, for that to happen it needs to be **received** – deliberately believed and allowed to come in in the first place, and enabled to grow in a hostile environment.

China Update

Last week Manuel and Ava heard Bob Fu speak about the situation today in China. Here is their report.

Bob Fu is the founder of ChinaAid. He was God's double agent, a Communist Party teacher involved in illegal Christian activities. Imprisoned, he preached the Gospel to everyone, practising 'Prison Theology'. Warned not to preach, he sang 'Give thanks' instead.

In "Persecution & Revival. Singing praise in the midst of suffering", Bob informed about the situation in China, to encourage and prepare the west in light of existing discrimination. He reminded us that *we are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.* (2 Cor. 4:8-10). The Chinese Government promotes sinicisation and since Christianity does not conform to their ideas, Christianity became the enemy. Crosses are taken down, Bibles and Christian literature are banned, and Christians are put to jail. He said, "This is a war against the Cross, God's people and the Law". Despite the persecution, churches are growing rapidly. Imprisoned Christians found joy to share their faith with the fellow prisoners, to the point that no two Christians are allowed in the same cell! They asked for our prayers, the most powerful weapon, which "will not be stopped by the iron gates and will meet at the throne of grace". Additionally, letters

for encouragement can be sent to those in prison, with details available from Release International or ChinaAid.

Ladies Meeting

Attendance at the Ladies' first meeting was adversely affected by severe weather but hopefully, the sun will shine this Thursday at 2pm when Terry Gallagher will be the speaker and share his story and message.

This Week

With it being the October school holiday there will be no Toddlers or Hashtag this week. But the Café will still be held on Wednesday morning and the Bible Study (Acts Chapters 6 and 7) on Thursday at 7 30pm on Zoom as well as the Tuesday church Prayer Meeting at 8pm and the morning prayer sessions on Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 9 30. Sunday' services will be taken by Simon Turner.

SGA Prayer Meeting

This will be held in Margaret Russell's home (53 Roman Rd, Bearsden G61 2SG) on Friday, 21st October at 7 30pm.

Women's Conference.

Echoes International is holding a day conference on the theme of Women working for God on Saturday 29th October, at Beancross Farm, Polmont, near Falkirk, from 10 30 – 2 pm.

Details on Echoes International, Scotland, website

Science and the Bible Conference

At Milngavie UF Church on Saturday 29th October, 9.30am to 4.30pm. East Kilbride doctor, Nagy Iskander and Simon Turpin of Answers in Genesis will speak on the relationship of Science and the Bible and engage in a Q & A session. Admission is free but we ask for donations.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Leaflets are available with guidance for filling shoeboxes for the Blythswood Shoe Boxes that are being sent as our Harvest Offering.

Esther Video

www.revelationmedia.com provide a lot of free Christian TV programmes. Currently, they are advertising an Esther movie in their Bible Collection series.

Pray for Each Other

No one felt isolated or uncared for in the Early Church. May we do likewise in our situations, praying for those facing challenges, of whatever sort; for those who, as yet, have not come to faith; and for the various outreaches being undertaken and those involved in them.

Finally,

Leaving for America to go to a conference is always exciting; but this time there is the added bonus of seeing our son Andrew. Had things gone to plan, we would have been at this conference last year when Andrew was in a different part of the States and we would not have seen much of him. Last year's disappointment when Covid rules prevented us going has been turned to great joy. Providence is such a powerful truth and we are blessed to know the God who rules in all things. We don't know what a day or hour may bring, but we can have peace knowing that God truly does.

"Leave to thy God to order and provide. In every change He faithful will remain"

John Macleod