



E News

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Issue 114

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Welcome to the November edition of Street Jesus e-news. With the clocks changing, the days shortening and Halloween behind us we look to Christmas and the celebration of Emmanuel God with us. One of the great things about our faith is that sense of God being with us still in the day to day. That the holy spirit is alive within us. How can we convey this to others who do not share our faith. In truth it can sound a bit weird, outside of the usual daily experience.

We continue to thank God for the opportunities we have to speak of him. About a month ago I received an unusual request by email from a local private tutor to a 15 year old boy. The boy wanted to know more about Jesus. I replied that I had no ologies Theo or otherwise and that they might be better served by speaking to the vicar at their local church. However they seemed happy to talk with me but i still wondered why us.

It turned out that they had seen my van outside their local Tesco's. We agreed to meet for an hour but ended up speaking for nearly two. The conversation was very respectful and amicable, the questions were challenging and covered a wide range of subjects. After a while they told me that they were atheist/ humanists, this was not a meeting of inquiry solely but turned more toward a critique of God and our faith.

One of the stumbling blocks for them was the ideas of Grace, that the worst of people could be forgiven by God, that Adolph Hitler for example could be in heaven should he genuinely repent, the caveat being that he of course like us would all face Gods judgement. The other area of concern for them was the God of the old testament, the God who ordered the destruction of the Amalekites including Children and animals. The Amalekites were the first of a number of tribes to attack the Israelites on their journey to the promised land. The context being that all the tribes around were involved in incest, adultery, child sacrifice, bestiality, temple prostitution, worshipping false idols and the cult of the dead where orgys were commonplace. The tribal cultures at that time were



undeveloped by modern standards, survival cultures, where tribal warfare took place to establish dominance and land. The Amalekites harassed the Israelites, sodomising and castrating them, throwing their penises into the camp at derision of their circumcision. If the



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Amalekites had defeated the Israelites there would have been no moral code established in that land and Jesus could not have been introduced without people knowing the law. There would have been no place where Jesus could establish his ministry, no crucifixion, no resurrection no means by which to reconcile mankind to God. How should God have otherwise dealt with the Amalekites in such a harsh culture? To modern liberal western eyes this seems evil but what would have been much more evil would be to leave mankind without a means of salvation and redemption., lawless, without any kind of moral structure. Not to mention the harm done by uncontrolled sin.

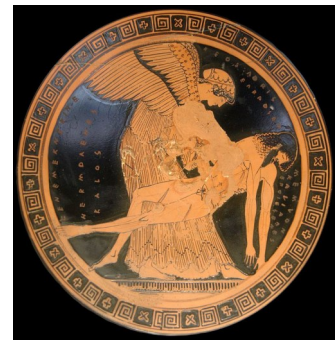
Interestingly the Israelites spared the Amalekites much to Gods annoyance. The Amalekites of course came back to fight Israel at a later time. .



They also spoke about the influences that nearby cultures had on forming the bible. The student was very interested in this aspect and very knowledgeable for a 15 year old. Most notably the Hammurabi moral code in the region of Babylon as inscribed on the stele (pictured left) now sited in the Louvre in Paris. The implication being that the Israelites gleaned the laws from this code rather than God because the Hammurabi code pre dates the giving of the law to

Moses on Mount Sinai by a few hundred years. However although the law was given to Moses, it was previously given to Abraham, and although the law is not specifically stated the bible records in Genesis 26:3 that Abraham had listened and obeyed all Gods requirements, commandments, decrees and instructions. Also before Sinai, the ten commandments were either stated or implied in stories such as Cain and Abel and Joseph and Potiphar's wife.

Further we know that Abraham was active in the area in Genesis 14:13 living near Mamre the Amorite. In other Jewish and Babylonian writings Abraham is recorded as being a prominent person, an astronomer a wise prince and an advocate for God. It is just as possible that Abraham influenced Hammurabi in forming his law code. We also know that Malchizedek the priest was a contemporary of Abraham and held in high regard by God. It may also be possible that God was prompting the Amorites but the Israelites brought it all together as part of Gods grand plan for salvation and restoration.



The student also spoke about the ancient Greek myths and how the Bible seems to have borrowed them and woven them into the fabric of the new testament. We know that John in particular wrote his Gospel aimed more to the Greek philosophical tradition as Matthew focussed on the Jews and Mark on the Romans. There are similarities but also very stark differences which I will cover in next months e-news. The Tutor has sent me some feedback from our meeting and I am awaiting the same from the student. Please pray as I formulate our response that God will give the wisest and most useful words. As always we bless and pray for all those people we come into contact with.

My new daily USB notes talk about the importance of singing and how good it is for us. Communal worship is a wonderful thing. We were very encouraged in our Church testimony time that a teacher in a local school had introduced singing into school Assemblies. Over time she introduced a worship song "In christ alone" The thirteen year old children sang with Gusto which made the hairs on the back of her neck stand up. Praise the Lord.

Our next outreach is on Saturday November 30th at the Wickham Market Christmas market. We are so looking forward to it and hope to see you there.
Gods blessings Graham





The Filling Station is an informal way of expressing the Christian Faith, using celebration meetings to encourage the local church, predominantly in rural areas across the UK.

What to expect when we meet:

A warm welcome with light refreshments... Contemporary worship led by local worship leaders... Stories of God at work today... Guest Speakers to refresh our faith... Prayer together for worldwide and personal needs...

Thursday
28th November 2024
- Laura Brett
The Gift

The Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew
Refreshments at 7pm for a 7:30 start.

Everyone is Welcome

<https://thefillingstation.org.uk/>

All Saints
Wickham Market

SS Peter & Paul
Tottistree

OPEN DOOR

LOVE

Coffee, tea,
biscuits and
friends

Friday morning
Drop in from
10:00am

At All Saints Church
Every Friday Morning

Network SUFFOLK

Connecting Christian Communities in Suffolk

GOOD NEWS

www.goodnews-paper.org.uk

Evangelistic Newspaper

**All Saints Church
Wickham Market**

Prayer & Praise Evenings
3rd Sunday of the month
at 6:30pm

Informal service for all ages



Every third Sunday of the month at 11am
All Saints Church, refreshments from 10.30am

Oasis

Informal Service @ All Saints Church
3pm every Second Sunday. All invited!

A time of worship, fellowship,
and light refreshments.

Meet old friends and make new ones



Gallery



Street Jesus team enjoying Lollipops at Wickham Market Summer Market

CD of the month

Book of the month



Our next outreach is at
Wickham Market Square
Saturday November 30th

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facebook page
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