

Holy Trinity Church : Formby

13th June 2010

10.30am Morning Prayer & Baptism

Luke 7 v 36 - end

"Jesus + Dr Who"

Introduction

Did you watch the football match last night - wasn't it good - and who would have guessed at how well he played **OR** the result - I know I didn't.

No I'm not talking about the World Cup; you will be delighted to know. This sermon is going to be a World Cup Free Zone.

Although by the look of some of you - last night was anything but a World Cup Free Zone!!

So - did you watch the match?

No not the England v America match.

Dr. WHO!!

Last night Dr. Who showed off his skills as a footballer

BUT

Last Saturday, he and his assistant, Amy Pond, found themselves back in 19th C France - in Provence - where they met Van Gogh.

I'm waiting for the script writers to take Dr. Who and his assistant back in time to when Jesus was alive.

One of the rules that Dr Who has to obey is that he cannot '**change**' history.....although in some of the things he does it might be questionable as to whether he does!

Even if they were to go back to 33AD - Dr Who wouldn't be able to prevent the events of the Cross and Easter morning = Death and Resurrection.

Which of course was and is vitally important to every Christian who has lived or is alive today.

It is at the very heart of our faith.

Yet throughout the accounts of Jesus' life and ministry - what we call The Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John - in the Gospels = **GOOD NEWS** - we can read about how people tried to influence Jesus' actions -

One such example is in our Gospel reading set for today.

It's the account of how a woman - wets his feet with her tears and wipes them with her feet - before she pours an expensive jar of perfume over the feet of Jesus.

AND THEY TRY TO STOP HER!

INVITE GAIL TO READ THE GOSPEL PASSAGE

Teaching

What can we learn from this Gospel passage, in our Christian pilgrimage as members of the Christian Church - in our responsibilities as Parents & Godparents?

In many ways the answer to that question can be best answered by another question.....

Where would we fit into this story?

If like Dr. Who we were able to climb into a Tardis and journey back in time.

Would we be like.....

The Pharisee?

Perhaps he had already pre judged Jesus.

He treated Jesus as a sinner, an outsider, an alien, denied the courtesies due to guests: the kiss of welcome; the water to bathe tired feet; the anointing.

Do we sometimes focus on rules and regulations at the expense of love, both of and for God?

Do we label difference as sin?

Are we guilty of condemning "sinners" as well as sin?

With Jesus, people always came first. He stripped away sin to focus on the beauty of the human soul beneath.

And he does that with each one of us here today - he looks into our hearts.....and what does he see?

The woman before her encounter with Jesus?

A life blighted by sin,

Labelled by the rest of the world.

Do we sometimes feel so burdened by guilt or oppressed by worry and pain, that we forget how much God loves us?

Conclusion

Both the life of the Pharisee and the Woman were transformed by their encounter with Jesus.

BUT - I suspect - they were affected in different ways.

The Pharisee - he will have been confirmed in his view that Jesus was not for him.

The woman who poured out the expensive oil - she will have been changed by the knowledge that she was accepted by Jesus.

We will never be invited by Dr Who to travel back in time to meet Jesus

But he invites us to meet him today.

To discover how much he loves us - and to invite us to love him

No matter who we are - or what we have done.

AND as one who did that

- not at my baptism
- not at my confirmation
- but as a young man of 24 who recognised that there was a void in my life that only Jesus could fill.

I can tell you - as that woman who met Jesus 2000 years ago - would tell you, were she standing here - as indeed others at this service would also confirm from their own experience.

That will be a life-changing and a life-long experience.

Amen