**Sunday 2nd April 2017 Message**

**Is the truth being birthed out of you?**

**Short Video Clip – Billy Graham**

**Introduction**

As we approach the season of Easter and the forthcoming wave of evangelism, we as disciples who are called to disciple others have to be able to answer two key questions of anyone seeking a faith. These are:-

Asking the questions “Who is Jesus?”, “What is the truth?”

At Easter we remember the passion of God for mankind revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you have seen the film “The Passion” which depicts very graphically and accurately the crucifixion of Jesus. I ask the question does it tell us who Jesus is, or does it tell us how He suffered. The reality is there were tens of thousands crucified so violently by the Romans for all sorts of crimes against the Empire. The question we really have answered in the film is how did He die, and the audience is still left with the question who is Jesus, what is the truth about who He is.

The Christmas nativity was wonderful and tells us how Jesus came into the world, but does the nativities seen by millions around the world answer that key question “Who is Jesus” and what is the truth that He reveals? Jesus was born of Mary, He was not just another cute baby born in strange circumstances, who is this child?

The same question remains after many a story, many a testimony, we may know what Jesus has done, but do we have the truth of who He is? If we have this truth is every element of that truth being birthed in our own lives?

The three gospel writers Matthew, Mark and Luke give the accounts of Jesus’ life from different angles. They are called the synoptic gospels, ie the records that give a general view of the whole picture. They lead the reader to conclude that this Jesus was someone special, radical, wise, miracle healer who invaded and changed the world spiritually, but you are still left with a question “Who is this Jesus?”

Matthews gospel was written to the Jews and people of their mindset, starts with a genealogy of Jesus that goes back to Abraham the father of the Jewish nation.

Luke gospel written to a Gentile mindset starts with a genealogy back to Adam the father of all nations.

Mark written to Romans concentrates on the actions of Jesus, rather than the teachings, and uses less words. Starts not with the birth of Jesus but the baptism of Jesus.

All three “synoptic” gospels give very different accounts. John written some decades after the other three is written to fill in the missing pieces and focus on WHO IS JESUS, and starts not with the birth of Jesus but the pre-existence of Jesus and His involvement in creation. In the beginning. No messing around in giving the life story of Jesus to reveal who is Jesus, He is straight in. He gives the ultimate clarity of the theology of who Jesus is and why He came.

The gospels are not historical statements, they are not biographies or autobiographies they are all different. They are gospel tracts written to different groups of people, written from different angles.

The tense of verses 1-3 about Jesus tell is “JESUS WAS” whereas verses 6-9 “JOHN THE BAPTIST CAME”

***John 1:1-13 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.***

***6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.***

***10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.***

***John 14:6-7 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." NIV***

The Word – the spoken word – rhema – everything began in creation with the spoken word. Hebraic mind will grasp this in John. The Greek mindset is about the written word – logos.

Mankind is the only part of creation which can release power through the spoken word. This is one of the unique marks that shows we are created and empowered in the image of God.

John emphasizes the deity of Jesus throughout this revelation that He Jesus the word is God. Our salvation hangs on who is the baby born in a stable? He is God from the beginning.

Say to the person sitting close to you on your left Jesus is the truth. Now say to the person closest to you on the right Jesus is the truth – the devil is a liar.

**Exegesis Precis**

***John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

Our first three gospels are like spiritual milk contained in the opening of this fourth gospel with the great keynote of it, that in verse 13 the reader comes to the almost stupendous and amazing climax"The Word was made Flesh,"

Three great things are said of The Word, in verse one

*First,* He was "in the beginning – linking us straight to Gen 1:1

'Before all time' and all created existence, John reveals Jesus was there, uncreated and eternal See John 17:5,24; Col 1:17.

*Second*, The Word "was with God

This conveys two ideas-that He 'had a conscious personal existence distinct from God,' "with;" and that He 'was associated with Him in mutual fellowship.'

*Third*, The Word "was God"

No other translation of this great clause is grammatically possible. Even should the order of the original words be retained (as in Luther's German version) - "and God was the Word," the sense will still be the same: 'and God the Word was'

Each of these three pregnant statements is the complement of the other; each successive one correcting any misapprehension to which the others might give rise.

***John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.***

Reiterating the eternal distinctness of the Word from God ("the Father"), and His association with Him in the Unity of the Godhead.

The spoken (rhema) Word of God, is Jesus, He is the creative voice of the universe.

***John 1:3All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.***

- that is, "all things" in the most absolute sensev"by him" Rom 11:36, Col 1:16 - that is, the entire universality of created things, as the all-comprehensive details that follow are intended to show - "whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him Heb 1:10-12, where creation, in the most absolute sense, is ascribed to Christ.

***John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.***

In him was life. Jesus is the font of all life especially mankind. Accordingly, He is called "The Word of life" (1 John 1:1-2).

And the life was the light of men. - frequently in Scripture light and life, on the one hand, and on the other, darkness and death, are associated: "I am the Light of the world," said Christ: "he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Here "the light of men" seems to denote all that distinctive light in men which flows from the life given them-intellectual, moral, spiritual: "For with Thee," says the Psalmist, "is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light" (Ps 36:9).

***John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.***

- that is, in this dark fallen world; for though the Life was the light of men," they were "sitting in darkness and the shadow of death"- , with no ability to find the way either of truth or of holiness.

And the darkness comprehended it not – they could not find the way of life without accepting the light, revelation of the truth.

***John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.***

John the Baptist as foretold in scripture, Malachi and elsewhere was distinctively human, sent by God.

***John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.***

***John 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.***

To avoid confusion as to the roles of JB and Jesus

***John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.***

***John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.***

(that is, the intelligent world), knew him not.

startling the reader, and setting his ingenuity a-working to solve the vast enigma of 'The world's Maker treading on and yet ignored by the world He made!

***John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.***

It is impossible to give in English the full force of this verse. In the first clause it is 'His own [things]'-meaning 'His own Messianic rights and possessions:' in the second clause, it is 'His own [people];' meaning the special people who were the more immediate subjects of His Messianic kingdom - Received him not -

***John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name***:

But as many as received him - as many individuals, out of the mass of that "disobedient and gainsaying people," as owned and embraced Him in His true character,

To them **gave He power**, To become the sons of God - or rather, 'to become children of God; not in name and dignity only, but in nature also, as the next verse makes evident.

Even to them that believe on his name - means to 'give credit to a person's testimony.'

But what kind of sonship is this to which Christ introduces such believers in Him? The next verse tells us.

**Slide**

***John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. NIV***

***John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. NIV***

***Romans 3:28***

***For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law***

***John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.***

Which were born, Observe this word "born," or begotten.' It was not a name only, a dignity only, which Christ conferred on them: it was a new birth, it was a change of nature-the soul being made conscious, in virtue of it, of the vital capacities, perceptions, and emotions a 'child of God,' to which before it was a total stranger. But now for the Source and Author of that new birth-both negatively and positively.

Not of blood - not of 'superior human descent,' as we judge the meaning to be,

Nor of the will of the flesh - not of 'human generation' at all,

Nor of the will of man - not of man in any of the ways in which his will brings anything about. By this elaborate, three-fold denial of the human and earthly source of this sonship, how emphatic does the following declaration of its real source become!

But of God. A sonship strictly divine then, in its source this was which Christ conferred on as many as received Him. **Right royal gift which whoever confers must be absolutely divine**. For who would not worship Him who can bring him into the family, and evoke within him the life, of the children of God? Now comes the great climax, to introduce and raise us to the altitude of which the foregoing thirteen verses were penned.

***John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.***

And the Word was made flesh - or 'made man,' or took Human Nature in its present state of frailty and infirmity-in contrast both with what it was before the fall, and with what it will be in the ate of Glory-without reference to its sinfulness.

And dwelt among us -The word strictly signifies 'tabernacled' or 'pitched His tent;' a word unique to John, who uses it four times in the Revelation-and in every case in the sense not of a temporary sojourn, as might be supposed, but of a permanent stay: Rev 7:15, "Therefore are they before the Throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple, and He that sitteth upon the Throne shall among them;" and 21:3, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will with them." (So Rev 12:12; 13:6.) Thus, then, is He wedded forever to our flesh; He has entered this tabernacle to go no more out.

**What is true? How do you know it’s true?**

Jesus is the truth even when people cannot comprehend Him. Jesus is the truth when people do not believe Him. Jesus is the truth when people reject Him. Even when the disciples mistreat Him He is still the truth. The church may misrepresent Him but He is still the truth. Supporters may slander Him but He is still the truth. Pupils may revile Him but He is still the truth. Followers may bruise Him but He is still the truth. Peter may deny Him but He is still the truth. Judas may betray Him but He is still the truth. And Rome may crucify Him but He is still the truth. The worlds reactions to Jesus cannot negate the foundational fact that Gods Son Jesus Christ is the Truth.

Mary was pregnant with the truth, carried the truth, but had to birth the truth, nurture the truth, and release the truth.

Mary could not share the truth in her belly, until it was ready to come out. Likewise, when God speaks truth into you there is a time for its development in you and there is a time for its release.

If you are intimate with God the Truth will impregnate you. You will become pregnant with the truth. You will carry the truth. One day it will be birthed out of you, and you will have to protect, nurture and release the truth.

Each person’s experience of what truth is to them comes from hearing a statement, seeing the evidence and then acting upon it because they choose to believe it.

Truth comes into us by hearing the Word – from the mouth of God through the scripture, preacher, acquaintance, prophet, direct to your heart. Once you are impregnated with the truth it becomes reality when there is evidence of its effect upon your life. Once you have evidence that you are pregnant the consequence is that you have to birth that truth.

**Have you given birth to some truth this week**?

Think about what God has done. Thank Him for what He has done. Share what He has done. This births and spreads truth.

**Epistomological truth**.You know what you know because you have **evidence** of it outworking in your life. You sense His presence. You have answered prayers. You have been healed. You have doors of opportunity opened, and doors to disaster closed. When you should have died you have lived, unless you are not really with us this morning.

**Experiential Truth** - If you want to know truth you have to **experience** it. You know gravity is true because you experience. You know you need air to breathe, because if you have experienced not being able to breath, you know what you desperately need. The reason people do not believe what Jesus has done in your life when you tell them, is because they have not shared the experience, unless they have seen you go through that experience. Most pre Christians will fall asleep during sermon, even some Christians, because it makes no sense to them as they have not yet experienced the reality of the truth you are trying to explain.

Eating the apple illustration. Is he apple I have eaten sweet or bitter. Theologian how can I possibly know? If you have never tasted Jesus how can you know how sweet He is.

**Eschatological Truth** – he has you covered and in hand for the future. It is in the script. That when Jesus died he would rise. It is in the script when Jesus ascended He is coming back. It is in the script that He is my Shepherd, I shall not, I need fear no evil, He will never leave me, He is my rock. He is my healer and deliverer. **It is in the script** I am in His hand, He loves me, and He is for me.

God has been working from the beginning of time and He has worked out the end. We only have a short view of the great plan. In your present circumstances stop trying to work out what God is going to do, because He has provided His Presence for your present. God was in the past, He is in the present, and He is in the future simultaneously.

***John 1:2 He was with God in the beginning. NIV***

This is the truth. The author, our God has written it.