

Sermon Summary
6th of Easter 2013
5th May 2013

- John's Gospel is the least supernatural of all the gospels.
- The Synoptics, usually in parables, give us pictures of heaven or hell as distinct places.
- Focussing on places can make the spiritual journey look as if we are heading for a place which we have yet to reach. In part this is true, but it should not make us think that Christianity promotes a view of "jam for tomorrow".
- Too often that has been used to justify complacency in the face of injustice in the here and now; don't worry, it will all be sorted out...one day.
- John's Gospel offers something different.
- John is not really interested in place.
- Instead he is interested in relationships.
- This makes a crucial change.
- Certainly we will dwell with the Father (and that implies some better quality of life)
- But we already do dwell with the Father inasmuch as we are companions of Jesus.
- And that makes God's work this worldly as well as other-worldly, and demands that we live in the here and now as those who are loved by the Father, and rejoice in that love accordingly, not that we live simply in the hope that someday, if only we are good enough, will this happen.
- For God has already sent His Son so that those who believe in him may live in love and experience something of that better quality of life in the here and now.
- With that comes a responsibility, that we do not keep this to ourselves, but let those who, in this world, are lonely and desperate for love, that God's love is available to them here and now
- The way that God sends Jesus implies much about respect and love: it challenges the way that the church has often approached those outside it- with an air of superiority or scorn and little or no respect.
- People are much more likely to respond to an invitation which is made with respect.
- So our task is to share God's love with respect and love.

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