

Dec 28th 2008: "Jesus Tells Us Why He Came". John 10:7-21

Last Sunday.....Roger asked.....

He was making reference of course.....**To what Jesus** said in John 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- **As I sat and listened.....**I was also thinking about today

And then I realised.....that here we have Jesus telling us **why** He came at Christmas

On Christmas Day.....millions of Speakers....told you why we believe that Jesus came

But here is Jesus Himself.....giving the explanation

It wasn't the only reason He ever gave.....**Most comprehensive !!**

- **It includes all the other reasons.....**

Doing the Father's will.....Giving His life a ransom.....Saving us from judgment...

But it adds this extra dimension → Abundant Life.....Life to the full.

But what does this term abundant life mean ??...

that's what I found myself asking

The greek.....means overflowing....Super abundant.....

A life lived above a certain quality

In other words there is a life that **only Jesus** can enable a person to live

Which has a wonderful quality about it.....**that** a life without Jesus can never have

- **Now we all know....**that our Society.....is extremely materialistic

Quality of life is firstly judged by what one has.....**goods.....**money (**Super advert**)

Secondly it is judged.....by what one can do.....**Freedom.....**Ability to go holidays

But we are all aware.....that this quality of life is only open to some in our world

There are many places.....where people live in abject poverty::**Where** freedom

And even those who have all the material goods they desire

And all the freedom possible.....Do not really have a happier...more fulfilled !!

In fact.....the opposite is more often true

(Philippines.....joy in their lives.....They knew Jesus....knew God..)

So this abundant life Jesus came to give....Is not about having things

Instead.....it's about something that dwells within the spirit of a man

..because he or she has come to know God.....and **exp** Him as part of their daily living

They know with a certainty.....that God is at work every day in their lives...for their good

- **Jesus came because** He wanted us to have that experience for ever
Of knowing that we are so connected with God as our Father.....
that He is the major partner in our lives

And to make that possible.....He first had to free us.....by dying on the cross
Once freed of sin and judgment..... we become children.....

And then this abundant life is there.....waiting for us to enjoy it.

- **Turn once more to John 10:10**

The context is Jesus as the Good Shepherd.....who cares for His sheep

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Jesus wants the best for us.....The thief.....who represents the evil one.....doesn't

He wants what he can get out of us.....**He wants** to destroy us....to ruin us

To make us think that we are having a good time.....or that a good time is ahead

- **Jesus wants the best for us right now.....**and for eternity

And He knows that the best.....is this enrichment of the soul

This knowledge of God at work.....in and through us....

This abundant life is then.....a lot more than just being happy all the time
Or always having what we want.....Or never facing trials or suffering

Instead it relates to that inner feeling of being in tune with God
Of knowing that he is right here with me.....whatever

And experiencing those special times of real joy...
when you sense God actually in your life

- **As I look back.....**I can think of so many times when God has so thrilled
With an answer to a prayer.....With a sense of forgiveness and renewal
When He has truly blessed.....Made what I expected to be a hard time....

All that and more.....is part of this abundant life.....**that** Jesus came to give
And that the Spirit of God in us makes possible

And yet....like evry gift of God.....It is up to us to accept it....To take advantage of it

Every believer has been given access.....But not every believer enjoys....as much
For it depends upon us trusting Jesus enough....to follow Him.....to surrender
To risk being....and doing.....all that God wants for us

***I read a story by a man who recalled being taken to this major theme park
As they went in his father paid and they were given an armband***

As believers we don't want in 2009....**to go around** wearing the armband....
yet missing out on the abundant life.....
because we don't go further with Him...than walking around watching

Jesus has a plan and purpose for each of us.....
let's make sure that we are part of it.