

Financial Giving: This is a regular habit of our worship that is necessary for us to continue & grow in God's mission. There is a giving box near the entrance to The Upper Room (upstairs). For internet banking you can deposit to: 03 0435 0475881 27. For a giving number (for tax rebates) email: office@tcbc.org.nz or you can ask for an automatic payment form upstairs.

TCBC weekly budget: \$5387 Average giving: \$5754 (last 6 months)

Central Kids (ages 3 - 12): meet downstairs in the lounge during the second part of our gathering. All kids are welcome! + if you would like to help, please contact Nicola—it will brighten her day!

Curious to find out about baptism? We would love to talk, or grab a flyer from the back to find out more!

Membership, Church leadership + The Upper Room Support Team: If you would like to know who is involved, about our leadership, membership, or how to join, grab a flyer down the back, or have a chat with Pastors Brian or Andrew.

This is also a great chance to invite a friend. Cost = \$10-15 which will be put towards a table for future events. November from 7:30pm in the church hall. Please register on FB or directly to Pastor Andrew—021 731 5451 or Andrew@tcbc.org.nz

Blocks: "The Winner's Bat" Table Tennis Competition, Friday 20th November from 7:30pm in the church hall. Please register on FB or directly to Pastor Andrew—021 731 5451 or Andrew@tcbc.org.nz

"Come take a tour" (free): Tauranga Moana's latest medical ship, The WAM KOHA—Sat & Sun 7th & 8th + 14th & 15th Nov. 1—4pm. 6 Den Place Tauranga—Vessel Works, by the Harbour Bridge. ywasmshpsaotea.org.nz

What is Alpha? Alpha is for anyone who is curious to explore the big questions of life, faith & meaning from a Christian perspective around food. No questions are out of bounds + you are free to engage in as much or as little as you like. To find out more just ask or check out www.alpha.org.nz



Keeping Corrected, Continued...

Upper Room Sundays (coming up):

November 15th: Andrew Maude [Matt 16:21-17:13], "The Lens is Love."

Central Kids: Nicola, Wayne, Sharon, "Joseph Forgives."

November 22nd: Brian Cochran [Matt 17:14-27].

Central Kids: Juliet, Judith, David, "Christmas—The Best Gift of All"

November 29th: Andrew Maude Advent (week 1): Hope

Central Kids: Juliet, Wendy, Nicola, "Christmas—The Best Gift of All"

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THE
UPPER ROOM
 of Tauranga Central Baptist Church
Gathered, Dispersed, In Community: Existing To Bless
1030AM SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

TAURANGA CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH:
ONE CHURCH, TWO GATHERINGS,
ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER

Tēna koutou, haere mai ki Te Upper Room.
 Hello & a very warm welcome to The Upper Room. It's great to be together + we also love the chance to be able to welcome someone new! + if that's you, then we would love to have the chance to get to know you.

This morning, we will be asking ourselves the question: **What are some things that we find hard about following Jesus today?** + we will be thinking & praying for a number of different contexts in the world where it is hard to be a follower of Jesus today as well.

In response, while we know that it is often hard to be a follower of Jesus in the world & to live out the light of the gospel, we should also be encouraged by the words of Paul, who said this:

"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts... + we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God & not from us. We are hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed . . ." (2 Corinthians 4:6-10).

Indeed, while there may be many different things that are hard, they will never compare to the glory that is being revealed in Jesus Christ & by the wonderful invasion of our world by God's presence & rule. May we be guided ever more by that today.

Kia ārahi a Ihowa ki a tātou (The LORD guide us), **Pastor Andrew.**

The Upper Room End of Year Picnic: Please add this to your calendar for Sunday 6th December from about 12:30pm at Kullim Park. All welcome! Who can you invite?
 Bad weather fall-back will be Sunday 13th.

Today's Topic: "Who Am I?" [Matthew 16:1-20], message from Brian Cochran

In our journey in the Gospel of Matthew, this week Jesus is as far north from Jerusalem as he goes (maybe it's that some questions just can't be asked too close to home). Then, in that very far off place he asks his young & aspiring students a question, whose answer turns out to be much bigger & better than they could have known.

The question: "Who do you say that I am?"

However, before we jump to Peter's answer, how would you respond to this question for yourself? As you think about your answer, try to enter Peter's world . . . you have been asked on the spot, you've not prepared . . . **Take a moment to write down your thoughts:**

As for Peter, his response is this: "**You are the Messiah**" . . . which, of course, as a Jew, meant a whole lot to him then; but how fully do we know what that meant to him today?

Jesus affirms Peter's answer, rather strangely, by saying that he did not come to this answer on his own. Indeed, it is a gift, as it is a gift for us today—to know who Jesus is—it is a knowledge that has been revealed by God's Spirit. Would you ask to have a greater understanding / revelation of this yourself? It reminds me of that moment in chapter 7 (verses :9-11), where Jesus says:

*"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?
Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? **If you, then, though you are evil,
know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven
give good gifts to those who ask him!"***

Was Peter right? Of course; but did he have any idea what it would mean (i.e., the cross)? Not a clue! Indeed, how could he? And how could we? Likewise, there is much about Jesus (& what it means for us today) that we still have to work on & pray to know. Moreover, can you think of some areas in life where this applies?

It's interesting that Jesus asks many more questions than he answers. Indeed, apparently, in the Gospels, Jesus asks a total of 307 questions, & he only answers three of the 183 questions addressed to him (*Jesus is the Question* by Martin B. Copenhagen).

But why? Well, fascinatingly, in the very next verses of chapter 16 (vs., 18-19), Jesus informs that they/we have been given the authority / the responsibility / the "keys" (to the kingdom) to be able to "bind" in heaven whatever it is that we bind on earth, & that whatever we "loose" on earth will be also loosed in heaven.

So, what does this mean? Well, in short, Jesus was inviting his disciples (& so us) to participate in the work of God—which is exactly what it means to be human! (in the fullest kind of way that God has planned). In the beginning, in Genesis 2, our first human ancestors were commissioned with the task of being the caretakers (kaitiaki) for the whole of God's creation—that was (is?) good.

Hence, **in Jesus, the commission that was given to our first human ancestors is so beautifully (& perfectly) being commissioned to us again. And through Jesus, by God's grace alone,** we are re-united with our identity & our purpose as God's precious & sacred representatives in the world for the perfecting of God's plan. It is a plan that, for now, we can only see in part; but through Jesus & the power of God's Spirit we are the sign that it is not too far away! Indeed, through Jesus death & resurrection from the grave the victory is already won.

What other themes can you think of wherein we are called to exercise our commission in the world today:

Housing

Relationships

Waterways

Racial reconciliation

Pollution & waste

Justice

