

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

On the 11th April 2009, 47 year old Susan Boyle auditioned for Britain's Got Talent. As she walked onto the stage, she shared her ambitions of being a professional singer and stated that she was going to sing the song "I Dreamed A Dream" from the hit musical Les Miserables. Both the audience and the judges mocked her looks, antics and aspirations and essentially dismissed her as a failure. What happened next was a powerful reminder of the fact that looks can be deceiving. Susan wowed everyone with her performance and went on to win the competition. Her audition is still one the most watched clips on YouTube (120 million views) and she has now sold 6 albums with 20 number one hits. Today her net worth as a singer is estimated to be \$48 million. Not bad for someone who was written off as a failure by those who were at her first audition.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, He looked nothing like a victorious king and saviour. People saw him as a failure and mocked him by saying, "He saved others, but he can't save himself!" (Mark 15:31b). In the minds of everyone at that time Jesus was a loser. However, looks can be deceiving because the cross was not a shameful defeat for Jesus, but rather the greatest victory in the history of the world. Jesus' death on the cross, and resurrection from the grave three days later, was actually proof that Jesus had defeated the power of sin, Satan and death. Confused? Well take a look at Colossians 2:13-15. "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross." The Easter story is good news for us because we have all sinned and been overwhelmed by the power of death. But God lovingly stepped in and He sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins in order to disarm Satan and to defeat death. In his death and resurrection, Jesus won an amazing victory for us. So, if we have surrendered our lives to Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we have reason to celebrate. Because of what Jesus has done for us we have been set free from the power of sin and death. We have been made alive. So, even though the cross and the grave may seem like an embarrassing defeat, remember that looks can be deceiving. Jesus Christ died and he rose again to win the greatest victory ever in the history of the world. God bless, Pastor John.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

All of our Youth and Children's ministries (Sunday School, Kid's Ignite, Playgroup and Youth) are having a break during the school holidays. They will start up again next week.

SPECIAL MEMBER'S MEETING

We are holding the meeting next Sunday after the morning service to get approval for new signage and to keep you up to date with our church plans.

NEW WEDNESDAY SOCCER PROGRAM

In term 2 we are looking to commence a new program on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 to 4.30pm. The purpose of this program is to more intentionally connect with the 150+ kids from our soccer club and look to invite them to our existing kids ministries. While Harrison and Kaden will be running the program, they will need help setting up, signing in, signing out, afternoon tea, crowd control and packing up. If you would like to help there is a volunteer sheet in the gallery for you to sign up.

CRUSADER'S HOME GAME

Our second home game of the season is in next Saturday 15th April. As usual we are looking for volunteers to help set up the fields at 7am and to serve on the canteen from 8.15am until 12.30pm. If you are able to help please put your name on the volunteer sheet in the gallery between the sanctuary and the hall.

PREACHING SERIES FOR TERM 2

This term we will be going through the Ten Commandments and looking at what they mean, why they matter and why we should obey them. Many of us may think these commandments are outdated but as we go through these messages we will see how they perfectly reveal who God is and who we are. We will find that God's law is intended to show us our sin, drive us to our knees and lead us to the cross. We all need forgiveness for none of us keeps these commands perfectly. At the same time, for those of us who have been forgiven and know Christ, we will see how these commandments

NOTES

"Christ Has Conquered The Grave" (Matthew 27:57-28:15 & 1 Corinthians 15:17-20, 51-58))

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

'To know Christ and make Him known'

Easter Sunday

"But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died... Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life." (1 Corinthians 15:20, 22)

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9AM PASTOR JOHN "Christ Has Conquered The Grave" (Matthew 27:57–28:15, 1 Corinthians 15:17-20, 51-58)