

Word Puzzle – Matthew 17:1–6

J E K I L T O O K N D
U J A M E S U S E J E
S A I D O O G H N P R
T H R E E U T E O E U
D U O L C R N L H T G
A G N I K L A T S E I
Y M M J F Y O E A R F
S T O A T R H R P I S
Y H C H B T S S H P N
N E N M O S E S G R A
D R O L I G H T I R R
B E C A M E R E H E T

After six **days Jesus took** with him **Peter, James** and **John** the **brother of James**, and led them up a **high mountain** by themselves. **There** he was **transfigured** before them. His **face shone like** the sun, and his **clothes became** as white as the **light. Just then there appeared** before them **Moses** and **Elijah, talking** with **Jesus. Peter said** to **Jesus**, “**Lord**, it is **good** for us to be **here**. If you wish, I will put up **three shelters**—one for you, one for **Moses** and one for **Elijah**.” While he was still speaking, a bright **cloud** enveloped them, and a voice from the **cloud said**, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell **face** down to the ground, terrified.

International Version (Anglicised)

NTCOG NEWS

September 2011

Please read this newsletter carefully, make a note of the regular meetings, the special dates on the enclosed diary and make every effort to attend.

Weekly Meetings

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

RG24 9AE

Monday Prayer Meeting

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday Bible Study

8:00 p.m.

Thursday – Open Door

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Our Mission

To present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the local community in a powerful, practical and relevant way.

To encourage every member of the Church to develop their God given ministry and to fulfil their potential.

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Poet's Corner

Lord You are the Potter
I am the clay
In Your Hands let me stay
I will not resist Your breaking
Moulding, shaping and forming
Until the finished glazing
Perfect me to be Your utensil
Used in Your service till the day
I am transported into Your kingdom
To worship You forever and alway

Joan Macintosh

Prayer and Fasting

Historically, fasting has been practiced in one form or another by most of the world's religions. The Christian tradition of fasting builds on the Jewish heritage of our faith and has its roots in the teaching of the Old Testament and the practices developed by the Jewish people in exile.

We understand that Moses fasted for forty days on Mount Sinai (Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. Exodus 24:18 (NASB)) and we also know that Daniel fasted in Babylon (So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. Daniel 9:3 (NASB)).

The Day of Atonement is the only day that was set aside for the Jews to fast in the Old Testament Law. This was the holiest of all the feast days being the day that every Jew was required to make atonement for their sins. The act of fasting was part of the overall act of worship.

Prayer and Fasting as we understand it today developed in the Jewish Tradition when the Nation of Israel was taken into exile by surrounding nations. During their time in exile the

Jews increasingly used fasting, linked with prayer, as a way of humbly seeking God and specifically to seek His forgiveness, favour or discover His will ("Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way..." Esther 4:16 (NASB)).

The role, importance and value of fasting, much like that of tithing, has been questioned by many in the contemporary Church. Some argue that fasting is incompatible with a modern "western" lifestyle and that we should no longer practice fasting as a spiritual discipline. In contrast, others argue that, as our society increasingly abandons its Christian Heritage, fasting today is more important than ever.

As is often the case the truth exists between the two extremes. Fasting, linked with prayer, remains an important discipline that we abandon at our peril. We can learn from Jesus who fasted for forty days at the start on His ministry on earth (And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. Matthew 4:2 (NASB)). The important thing to remember is that we fast to seek God's will and favour the danger is that, for some, fasting becomes an end in itself.

As a local Church we recognise the importance and value of fasting, that is why we encourage everyone to join us in a fast on the Saturday before First Sunday. This is a time when we can all join together to fast and pray that God will continue to extend His favour to us as a Church and guide us as we look to expand our Ministry and acquire a Church building. Our monthly fast is voluntary because we believe it is important that fasting is undertaken as a willing sacrifice.

Pastor Graham

Gift Aid

If you are a UK Tax Payers then the Government will give us 25 pence for every pound that you give so please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes for your tithe and offering.