

M is for Martha and Mary

Do you ever get cross when you feel you've been left to do all the work in the kitchen while others are sitting down listening to someone who has come to visit? That's how Martha felt when Jesus came to visit their home.

Martha lived with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus in a village called Bethany. We read of Jesus visiting their home several times because they were special friends of his. Mary and Martha both loved Jesus. Once when Jesus came, Martha was busy with all the preparations. Mary was sitting listening to what Jesus had to say and Martha thought Mary should be helping her with the preparations. So she asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her. Jesus could see Martha was upset but he said to her, "Mary has chosen to do what is better".

Mary and Martha called for Jesus to come another time when their brother was ill. Jesus delayed going to see them and their brother sadly died. When Jesus did arrive in

Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for 4 days. Martha ran to Jesus on his way and said, "If you had come earlier our brother wouldn't have died". Mary was too sad to go to him. Jesus was sad too and he wept.

He told Martha to call Mary to come to them. Then Jesus did a most spectacular miracle. First He prayed thanking God for listening to him, next he called to Lazarus in the tomb "Lazarus, come out".

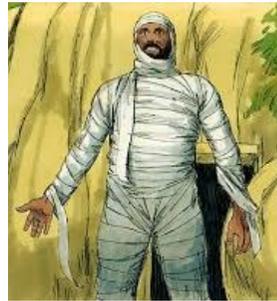
Amazingly the man who had been dead came out still wrapped in the strips of cloth!

After this many more people believed in Jesus.

Solve the code (A=1, B=2, etc) to find what Jesus said:

"9 1,13 20,8,5
18,5,19,21,18,18,5,3,20,9,15,14.
1,14,4 20,8,5 12,9,6,5. 8,5.
23,8,15 2,5,12,9,5,22,5,19
9,14 13,5 23,9,12,12 12,9,22,5
5,22,5,14 20,8,15,21,7,8 8,5
4,9,5,19."

Do you believe this?



Is society becoming intolerant?

We seem, as a society, to be increasingly intolerant of each other if we disagree on a particular matter. This is even becoming the case in universities where speakers for particular causes are being banned by the student unions or university authorities. A worrying trend which effectively curtails free speech, and free speech is fundamental to safe and open society (so long as it is not "hate speech").

We should always be free to disagree with someone's views but we should, at the same time, respect the person who holds those views.

However, intolerant (even violent) opposition is nothing new. We see it in the New Testament where Jesus was opposed by the religious leaders of the day. That opposition became so strong that the authorities sought ways to kill Jesus. It came to a climax in a sham trial and the eventual crucifixion of Jesus. This was a serious miscarriage of justice and is an extreme example of an

intolerant society.

But the death of Jesus was not just the result of a miscarriage of justice. Hundreds of years before Old Testament prophets foretold that Jesus would die by crucifixion even before it had been invented.

No, the death of Jesus was a planned event to purchase our salvation. We remember at Easter time the death and resurrection of Jesus for our sakes.

His death was at the hands of cruel soldiers urged on by an intolerant crowd, but it fulfilled a higher purpose.

Jesus suffered for our wrongs and failings at the hand of his heavenly Father. He took our sins upon himself and took our punishment when God turned his back on him. As a result, there is forgiveness for us because Jesus has paid the price.

This is indeed the good news we wish to share in our Easter services. Do come and join us.



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Insight

- Issued four times a year
- To keep you informed
- To stimulate thought
- To invite you to our events

Market Overton
Free Church

is an independently governed church and a member of the FIEC



What do you boast about?



What are you most prone to boast in?

Your home or garden?
Your children perhaps?
Your career and achievements?

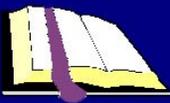
Your ability to do the Times crossword or still

answer questions on University Challenge? There are any number of things that we might rightly be proud of, but the apostle Paul – who had an impressive personal catalogue he could have drawn from – said this: “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Galatians chapter 6 verse 14). When you recall that a Roman cross was a degrading instrument of painful death, deemed too shameful for Roman citizens to suffer and considered accursed by his fellow Jews, it’s a shocking statement. Why such a boast? Well, it’s not

just any cross, but specifically the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. There, the only sinless person ever, suffered the penalty that sin deserves. Jesus died a degrading, shameful, accursed death so that we, the guilty ones, might be pardoned. And he did this voluntarily. Jesus knew exactly what awaited him in Jerusalem and, when he was arrested, he explained to his disciples that he could have called on his Father who would immediately have put twelve legions of angels at his disposal. But Jesus understood that deliverance from the power and penalty of sin could only be achieved by him dying in our place. He suffered the full extent of God’s holy anger against sin so that we wouldn’t have to.

Do come and discover more about the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ this Easter.

Peter Rush



Market Overton
Free Church

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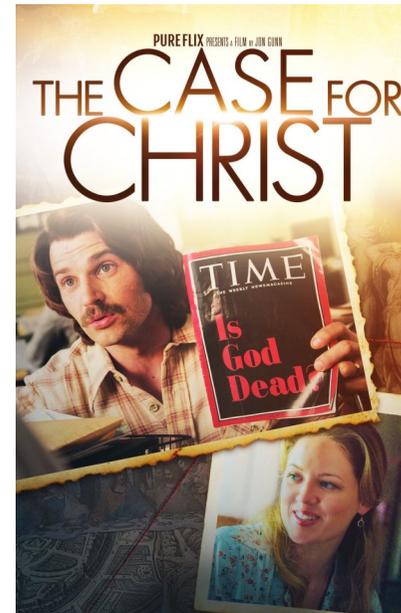
Morning Worship - Every Sunday including Easter Sunday, 21 April 10.30am MO Village Hall - suitable for all.

Evening Worship - Every Sunday 6.30pm Edmondthorpe except for **All Age Services** 4.30pm on 31 Mar, 28 Apr, 26 May in Cottesmore Village Hall. See website for dates and venues

Midweek meeting - Most Thursdays, 7.30pm
MO Village Hall (but check website)

Coffee Hour - Friday, 10.30am:
8 March, 12 April, 10 May
MO Village Hall

Free film showings of “The Case for Christ”



When Lee and Leslie Strobel’s daughter nearly chokes to death, the claim of the nurse who saves her that they should thank Jesus sends them on two colliding paths. Whilst his wife is led to church, Lee, a self proclaimed atheist and award

winning investigative journalist sets out to disprove the New Testament and free his wife from her delusion. Based on a true story, the book of the same name and the film charts Lee’s various meetings with Christian scholars as he puts together his evidence for atheism. However, as the title of the film suggests, what Lee ends up writing is a convincing argument for Christ which has a bigger effect on his life than he would ever have imagined.

Whether you are convinced, doubting or questioning, you are very welcome at the free screening of The Case for Christ. We will also be running a Christianity Explored course for those interested in finding out more about Christianity.

Free film screenings:

Cottesmore Village Hall
Friday, 22nd March
@ 7.30pm

Wymondham Village Hall
Thursday, 28th March
@ 7.30pm



Christianity
EXPLORED
One life. What’s it all about?

We run Christianity Explored courses
Contact us for details of the next course