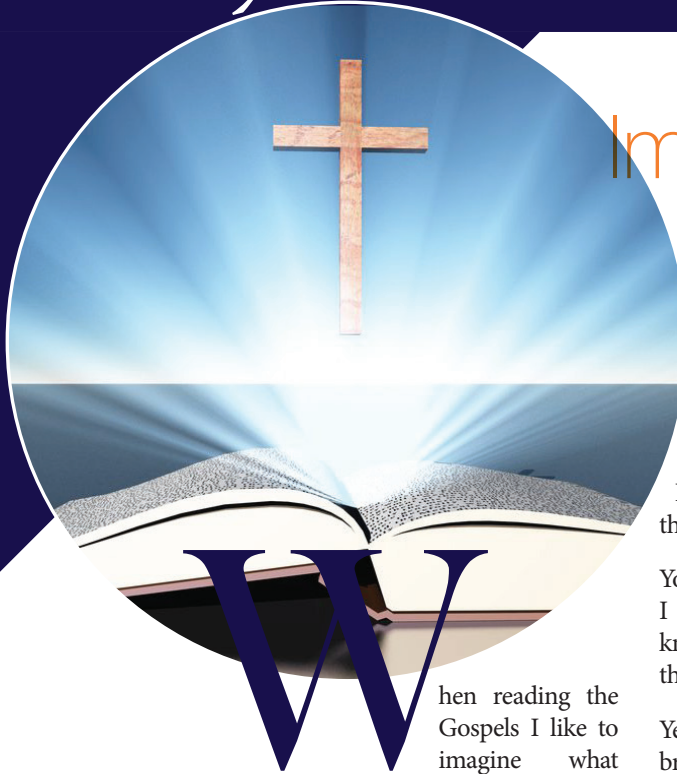


In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 26 – Sept. 20th



by **John
Mason**

When reading the Gospels I like to imagine what people might have been saying about Jesus. So in my imagination this is what two may have said to each other when they meet with now having heard Jesus tick off the Pharisees.

“I haven’t seen you for a couple of

Biblical Imagination

days, so what have you been up to?

You may well ask. I have just come from hearing Jesus get stuck into the Pharisees.

He did what?

He told them that their father was the Devil.

You don’t say that to the Pharisees. I know what has happened. You know the other week when he feed that large crowd.

Yes, and you thought everyone had brought their own lunch.

All right I admit I was wrong but I think feeding all those people has gone to his head.

Never mind that. He then told the Pharisees they were liars.

You don’t say that to the

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IF IT BLEEDS
IT LEADS

What is Your Hope?

by Adam Richards



Judgement doesn't track well in focus groups, people like positivity. Marketing teaches us that people prefer positive message. So preach the positives!

Many Christians don't realise just how weird Christians and Christianity can sound to those outside the faith. Christians talk about death a lot in comparison to the society around us, this is different and weird to the society around us. When talking to friends and family we are often told not to talk about death or judgement. Instead we should talk about love, relationships and being good to our neighbour. I've often been told not to focus on the negatives, that people don't want to hear about judgement. Instead talk about the positive aspects of being Christian.

But have you ever noticed in politics and the media that they barely ever preach the positives? In fact, often times politicians and the media focus squarely on the negatives. Vote 1 - whoever, or if you act now and pay \$9.99 a month, you will change the world. The unwritten rule in the media is - if it bleeds it leads! There are multiple reasons for this, but basically many of the motivators to get eyeballs have to do with people wanting to see disasters. The media in an endless pursuit of eyeballs for cash, so they provide

whatever disaster or so-called news required to generate the most views. Negatives produce reasons for immediate action. Politicians and the media use these negatives to gain our attention and our vote.

The reason I talk and write a lot about the media is that they are the prophets of our society. They all push a religious message and a worldview. And every time they call on the society to do something their message should be instantly recognisable - Act Now, Judgement is coming! But our modern day prophets are often only in it for the profits.

Why would we trust their bottom-line driven news service? But notice even in their quest for cash, they teach us that the quickest way to line their pockets is through speaking what most interests people - judgement. Sure they won't explicitly use that word, but idea simmers not far from the surface.

12 years to stop climate change, act now build a windmill. Black Lives Matter - vote for the communist. They require no real rational thought or connections in these movements, just simple assertions - Judgement is coming. Act now - Save the future! Blah, Blah, Blah!

Which brings me back to the title question - What is your hope? Clearly knowing what is your hope will cut through a lot of verbiage of the culture's prophets because hope is about the future. God builds Christian hope through Jesus' death and resurrection. God hopes we pass through his judgement by placing our faith in Jesus. When Christians stop talking about God's judgement, not only do we provide space for the culture to fill the void with its own pseudo-judgements, but we also lose our hope. The interaction of judgement and hope generate meaning in the Christian life. Christians hope for God's salvation from His judgement through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is an eternal hope of eternal worth - and there is nothing more positive than God's hope.



Pharisees.
I tell you his
goose is cooked
now. They won't
stand for any talk like
that.

Then He said something very
interesting,

What was that?

He said, "Abraham was, I am"

Well?

What do mean, "well"? Don't
you remember the name of
God Moses was told to use?
When describing God Moses
was to say, the I am who I am
has sent me.

You don't mean Jesus was
saying he identifies himself
with the "I am" that Moses
used, do you?

All that is how it looks to me. I
have now decided to look more
closely at Jesus and follow him
wherever he goes because I
want to know who he really is.
You can stay here if you want
and say "his goose is cooked" or
you can come with me.

All right I am with you. I too
want to find out for myself who
Jesus really is.

Good, if we hurry we can catch
him up. He has just walked off
down that road."

So the two men in my
imagination have decided to
find out for themselves who
Jesus really is and isn't that what
Jesus wants us all to do. Let us
never stop hearing Him in
our thoughts asking the most
important question there is.
"Who do you say that I am?"

Keep Imagining. Every
Blessing, John Mason.

Correction: Two Weeks
ago in John's Piece it was
written that John and
June had been married
for over 40 years. By
God's grace John and
June were in fact married
over 50 years.

Find-A-Word - Hope

Abraham	Friends	Market	Prophets
Aspect	Imagination	Mean	Salvation
Assertion	Instead	Negative	Society
Comparison	Jesus	Neighbour	Worldview
Describe	John	Politician	
Family	Judgement	Positive	

H S U N D A Y T X N E T S I L
C T P M E T H I G H L I G H T
R C O M M U N I C A T E M I M
U B S B R E V O R P G Y Q A C
H Y B L A U T I R I P S U Q H
C S U O I C A R G T T L G H R
S E T S A I S E L C C E Z L I
D X M O P P O R T U N I T Y S
R E E X N W O D K C O L U T T
A R E L A T I O N S H I P P I
W D R I G H T E O U S F C Y A
N V S U D D E I F I R O L G N
I T B U N E M P L O Y M E N T
W E T I N I F E D R P F F L I
Z F S L S N O I T A T I M I L

PRAYER POINTS



Please send through points
for yourself. I will also pick up
points from around Barneys
to place here if others feel
comfortable sharing.

- Pray that as COVID restrictions lift that we will be able to get on-site ministries running safely.
- Pray that as year 12 exams approach that those sitting this year's HSC will be able to prepare well.