



Sunday 11th September 2016

Lance Blythe

A Fresh Start

Ezekiel 24

1. Read Ezekiel 24 :1-27. Discuss briefly Lance's comment "*this book is about death and destruction – layers of darkness – yet it contains a message of greatest hope*". How did reading it make you feel regarding your own life and hopes?
2. Lance said the "*first 23 chapters are of warning - I will come and destroy you if you don't repent*". What is the symbolism of the cooking pot about and discuss verse 13-14 and ask why would God say this?
3. Lance said "*people may say this cannot be from God*" but read Matthew 13 :24-30. What does this say about God's view of sin and judgement? Lance also said "*Ezekiel 24 is about Israel in a state of what we don't want – doom and destruction*" but this is a turning point and as we read later on in Ezekiel "*God says there is hope – exiles ,outcasts will... come back to Jerusalem*". God plays the role of judge and yet we know that later he restores Israel so how does this relate to Jesus paying the price for our sins. What effect did the crucifixion and resurrection have on the disciples lives, the early church, and Christians today?
4. Read Philippians 3: 7- 11. Lance said "*Paul's life was inverted. He wanted the power of the resurrection to go to every part of his life*". What did he mean by that and how does that apply to your life? How ought we to live with fear of God's justice? How ought we deal with worries and anxiety? Has the resurrection inverted your life as it did with the story Lance told of John Wesley and the Moravians?

