

God's Rescue Mission: Col 2:9-15, Mark 7:14-23

Big news story of the last week is this: SLIDE (EXPAND)

But in amongst horror, some good news – this (SLIDE) – EXPAND (trapped in 'pocket', survived on butter and wet cloth

We love stories of rescue, don't we?

Look at films – current – who's seen this (SLIDE – Avengers) – could replicate 1000x with films and stories like it.

If had a superpower what would it be? – SLIDE (ASK)

We love a superhero – and often associate idea of superheroes with rescue. Need an extra power.

Could be this... (SLIDES) or this – someone who is like us, but not like us, who saves the world.

Tell these stories again and again.

Yesterday went to see this – (SLIDE) Home

Classic rescue story – about alien called 'Oh' (SLIDE) – TELL STORY – Boov, relocates on planet earth, makes friends (SLIDE) – like us/not like us, sacrifices himself to rescue us. (Won't give away ending and how happens)

If only it were true – but what if it was true? (SLIDE) Why do we tell ourselves these stories again and again? Embedded deep in our culture, our memory, our deepest longings.

Our bible readings go to heart of this. Tells of **a real rescue, for everyone.** A rescue performed by someone who came to us, who was like us, but not like us. Who rescued us when we couldn't rescue ourselves, and offers us new hope, a life with him, a life which ultimately does end happily ever after – not without challenges along way, but real life, a real rescue.

The superhero in this story is Jesus.

But what rescue from? (last week) – **sin** (SLIDE) – all know that stuff is wrong with world, and usually problem is ‘other people’ (SLIDE) – but short answer to what wrong with world – I am (SLIDE) – sin=I in middle (SLIDE), rebellion against God (SLIDE)

What are effects? – this week’s passage, Mark 7 – pollutes (SLIDE) – enemy is within – like Home – this figure (SLIDE) – at centre and yet corrupts things

How deal with it? – dies and rises again – **SLIDE** – explained in Colossians 2

Dies – takes it on himself – read v13b-14 and EXPLAIN

Rises – defeats our opposition –sin, death, the devil – read v15 and EXPLAIN

This is what we celebrate in baptism – pick up on words ‘dying to sin that we may live his risen life’ (2x)

It’s story of sacrifice and victory – Jesus’, for our sake, offered to all of us

Story we tell ourselves again and again – like Home – sacrifice to victory

If only it were true... – but it is true

And it is into this truth that we baptised Zachary today.

Truth not just for babies, but for all of us. We all need rescuing, we need a real superhero – and Jesus is that superhero.

Sad truth about humanity is that many people don’t want to be rescued. But this is a real rescue – if haven’t considered it before, I urge you to do so.

And if have, let’s give thanks again that Jesus is God’s rescue mission. This is the ultimate story, but it’s not just a story, it’s reality.