



Go Deeper, Marcus Green, 17th September 2023

Dear Miners,

I hope you found Marcus's talk on Sunday helpful. He sends us these questions:

1. On Sunday morning, Marcus used Jesus' words in John 8.32:

'You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free'.

In what way do you understand the words 'the truth' in this sentence?

Is it about knowing doctrinal truth? Personal truth? Jesus as *The Truth*? All of the above? Something else entirely? Is there a pecking order in all of this?

Do you have a story about coming to know truth in some way that has made a huge difference for you - has the truth set you free?

2. LGBTQ+ people often find that Bible verses, commands and instructions are used to confine them and keep them down.

On Sunday evening, Marcus suggested that Jesus normally uses the Bible to raise people up.

Can you think of stories where Jesus uses the Bible in the way Marcus indicates?

Can you point to examples where there might be another way to see things?

3. Marcus had a throwaway comment that 'every time St Paul describes the Church he searches for images of diversity'.

Is he right? What sort of 'images of diversity' are there in the Bible for the Church - and are they essential or incidental?

As ever, if any of this prompts comment or question, do let me know, either by email or in the AMA box at church.

Every Blessing

Rob

Deeper Stuff

Marcus Green - *The Possibility of Difference*

David Runcorn - *Love Means Love*

These two books are a good look at how Evangelical Christians take an affirming view of LGBTQ+ people because of their understanding of the Bible.

Mark Vasey-Saunders - *Defusing the Sexuality Debate*

Brand new, a bit on the academic side, and more of an overview of how the Church of England has got to where it is. Fascinating - and really useful.

Brad & Drew Harper - *Space at the Table*

A conversation between a conservative pastor and his gay son. Genuinely moving.