



**John 12
:20-33.**

**A bigger
picture.**

Dear Miners

I remember a sermon where the preacher showed a picture of a dandelion breaking through the tarmac to describe redemption and resurrection. I do like it, but it challenges me. It feels too small an image.

I think that what happens on the cross is bigger than simply something between me personally and Jesus.

John's gospel is a bit grander. It talks (strangely) of glory in death, and Jesus says

“Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

When John talks about the world in this passage, the Greek word he uses is Kosmos. Kosmos means something closer to ‘the way things are arranged’ or ‘the system’ - as in “beating the system”.

So the phrase translates something like: -

The disruptive force behind the arrangement of this world, the system of this world will be judged and driven out. And when I die, I will draw all people will to myself.

Beating the Kosmos, the systems of the world, means that it's not just that your personal sin taken away, but that sin itself is beaten at the cross.

Redemption is bigger than we might have thought.

Often we think about salvation in terms of what Jesus has done for me – how the bad stuff that I do, my sin if you like, is forgiven. But, we also say that Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

- What might be some of the ‘systems’ oppressing us that need redeeming?
- How have you understood redemption and what happens at the cross?
- What do you think Jesus means by – I will draw all people to myself?
- How is this good news we can share with others?

Since the sermon with the dandelion, I have challenged myself to look for bigger signs of redemption in our world. I found stories on the radio and television and

newspapers that showed where poverty, abuse, discrimination and disease are beaten and good seeds spring up in their place.

What stories have you heard where evil or oppressive situations that seemed hopeless or likely to lead to something worse instead became places where there was glory and redemption and resurrection?

(I have some examples in links below).

You might like to try naming the sin that is beaten and the good things that glorify God which spring from its death using something like the phrase below:

When Jesus hangs on the cross, his body exposed and dying,

the sin of is exposed and dying too.

There is glory for God in **that** death.

We rejoice in **that** death.

It brings redemption as new seeds grow from it. Seeds of

Challenge yourself to look for bigger signs of redemption, remembering that God will glorify his name again and again and again...

Love from

Lizzie

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-67150025> - a story about negative stereotypes being challenged, young men finding joy and satisfaction in being a father and loneliness beaten as young dads are empowered.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001x4kl> an interview by Kirsty Young with Spice Girl Mel B, who escaped an abusive marriage, finds power in prayer and is now patron of Women's Aid.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-67580626> the story of a publican taking on homelessness.

<https://capuk.org/about-us/the-cap-story> a story of how John Kirkby grew the charity CAP from his own experience of debt's misery.