

Study notes, Sunday 22nd September 2019
(Revelation 1:12–20)

Welcome

- Which biblical images of Jesus do you typically have in your mind's eye? Have you seen any other images portraying Jesus which have shocked you?

Worship

Sing, listen to or read through the lyrics of one or more of the following songs...

- Jesus, we enthrone you / Is he worthy? You were the Word at the beginning (What a beautiful name it is...)

**Word – Jesus Christ is not safe...he is awesome! Don't forget your "Songlasses"!
(Revelation 1:12–20)...**

- Jesus Christ is all-powerful, yet personal.
- Jesus Christ reigns over all, yet stands among us.
- Jesus Christ reveals himself in glory, yet calls upon us to show others what he is like...
- Conclusion – An all-encompassing vision of Jesus transforms our relationship with him, with others and the whole of our lives.

Possible discussion questions (select a few)

- Do you agree with the quotation from Phil Moore that worshipping Jesus as someone less than he really is, could be seen as a form of idolatry?
- What does "Jesus Christ is not safe... he is awesome!" really mean, both linguistically and practically?
- How does Daniel's vision of "one like a son of man" in Daniel 7 correspond with John's vision of Christ in Revelation 1?
- Which of the imagery John uses in 1:12-16 speaks most powerfully to you and why?
- Should a commitment to following Jesus involve an element of fear? Why/why not?
- John's encounter with Jesus involves not only vision, but touch and voice. Is this typical within Scripture? What is your own experience of encountering God?
- Why was it important that Jesus was standing among the seven lampstands (churches)? How do we know he still stands among us today?
- Why do you think Jesus calls us (as imperfect people) to reveal who he is to others, rather than just revealing himself directly to them, as he did to John?
- How can the Church seek to reflect the likeness of Christ, without falling into the trap of making Jesus out to be "too nice or too safe"?
- How can we live lives of radical discipleship at the same time as holding down "regular jobs", caring for families and enjoying a "normal life"?

Prayer and witness

- Share with others any area of your life where you are in need of a special touch from Jesus.
- Share the name of one person on your heart who really needs to encounter Christ and pray mutually for them.
- Pray for any people you are aware of in the fellowship who are unwell. Pray also for Emily Fuller to be able to settle in well at Exeter University following her recent health concern.
- Pray for the JB Gill outreach evening at NMBC on Tuesday 24th September and the forthcoming Alpha course.
- Pray for MMCC, including the official opening of The Hub this week.
- Pray for a church/missionary in another part of the world, which you have a link with.