

- Also Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:14, 4:6, 11:35

Way up there...

- *(After the Colossians passage is read...)*
- Remoteness of power
 - Jack McConnel story, at openings of things around Motherwell, couldn't get near him!
- Effectiveness of power
 - Tam Dalyell and student tax payment story
- Read Colossians 1:15-20 and you'd be forgiven for thinking that God was just the same:
 - Jesus is power personified, he is God
 - he predates everything in this earth
 - indeed, he made it all!
 - from him all other sources of power and authority derive their authority
 - and in particular he's picked out as the head of the church, God's representative people here on earth
 - he's the one through whom God wants to "reconcile" things to himself - in other words, make contact, get to know us!
- Because the Bible describes the state of play between humanity and God as one of rebellion:
 - we rebelled against God's good way of doing things, thumbing our noses at all the good that God hoped and planned for us
 - a civil war has broken out, a breakdown in trust between a good government and a rebellious people
 - and something needs done to bring about peace
- But if all we knew of this peace mission was from passages such as Colossians, we'd be forgiven for thinking God was no different from human authority figures:
 - maybe powerful, but remote from us

Right down here...

- *Recap points above, very briefly!*
- Talk about what "Invading our space" might mean:
 - the sense of invasion of personal space, of someone standing too close!
 - but what about when someone comes alongside us in a problem - **a family member is ill, our partner is giving us a hard time, our job is on the line** - and instinctively offers exactly the kind of help and support we were looking for
 - enters into the problem with us, understands as if they were experiencing it with us, what the problem is
- What a blessing that is!
- That person might be said to have invaded the space where our problem is:
 - but they've invaded it to help us!
 - they come as a true liberator
 - that kind of invasion we can cope with!
- And that is precisely what Jesus did:
 - he came to earth, God's divine son, to enter into our world and our problem
 - he came as a baby, born in a stable (Luke 2:1-7)
 - he took on the problems we face - he cried, he was tired, he was let down by his friends - the verses we read from John are just example
- And the amazing thing is that he made this journey **for us!**
 - he came, dealt with our broken relationship with God, on the Cross