

We The People
Program 322 December 3, 2018
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Good Day to You. Trees fascinate me for a lot of reasons. Their contribution to this world is enormous and they provide a home for many creatures and hold the earth stable. Their branches offer shelter from the sun and storms and their wood is used for a myriad of things by mankind. Tall and gracious they can dominate the skyline or flourish amid rocks on steep slopes and impossible places. The great department store, Anthony Horderns of Sydney, wisely used the oak tree as its symbol with the phrase... "**while I live I grow**" and that positioning statement lives within my own daughters. Its nearly a call to action and a philosophical foundation to live by. The miracle begins with the acorn, a little orb that sprouts into a grand and towering oak tree with strong sprawling branches. Hanging from the oaks great arms like tiny Christmas ornaments, average acorns aren't even 5 centimetres from top to bottom. The trees generally start producing acorns after 10 to 20 years, although in a dense forest setting, an oak may not produce acorns for up to 50 years. A mature oak yields at most 2,000 acorns a year, but only one acorn in 10,000 develops into one of these iconic trees. This means that every oak tree is a miracle. It's nearly Christmas my friends and while this time of year can be questioned in relation to Christianity it nonetheless reflects on the birth of the greatest man who ever lived, Jesus Christ and that's a joyous, glorious and holy thing to do.

When you read of Jesus' life in the Bible, you quickly see that he was an '**acorn saviour**' and still is, in fact. His entry was humble, his existence unassuming, his approach in the manner of a servant rather than a king. A pauper's birth and a criminal's death did not diminish the grandeur and reality of his mission. Yet his closest friends, the disciples who he spent most of his time with, even they frequently failed to see the oak tree potential of Jesus' life. For many people, their belief in him and the significance of his work ceases there. But that's like planting an acorn and never returning to see the outcome, to touch its leaves, to shelter under its branches or lean against its mighty trunk. Yes, Jesus was a miraculous 'acorn' and he is a truly magnificent '**oak tree**' to anyone who dares ponder the greater reality this Christmas.

We should all strive to become the uncommon acorn—the one that develops into a majestic oak with limbs reaching out to a hurting damaged world. Christmas holds a promise that the world is over looking. A spiritual promise on which to base your life. This message underpins the work of 4CRB year round and this is the reason I offer my services on air to record the plain truth in a Godless world. All the human qualities we search for such as honesty, truth, loyalty, faithfulness, decency and love are in the Christian faith. At this Christmas time remember the timeless and magnificent words in Luke "**Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord"**.

This Christmas see past the gifts and the decorations, past the food, the toys and the drink and take time out and worship and be still. Great peace will come to you and your life while you hear the greatest story ever told. It's real and it's saving grace for eternity as you shelter beneath the Great Oak this yuletide season. Have a wonderful holy Christmas and a joyous simple new year.

Until next year this is Kent Bayley

Inspired in part by Claire van Ryn and Steve Cooper

