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Week 1: CHANGE OF HEART

What does it mean when someone is our king?

What does 'subject' mean?

How do these meanings translate into our relationship with God as King?

How were these things demonstrated to us in the life of Jesus?

What was the result of His living in this way?

As Jesus' followers what should our life-goal be?

What needs to happen in us for us to live like this?

A seed takes many years to grow into a fruit-bearing tree, so it is with God's Kingdom in us. It is a process, so we need to be patient with ourselves...It takes time to put our own desires, wants and ingrained behavioural patterns to the back of the queue, to learn to walk by faith with Father God and attend to what pleases His heart before our own.

Galatians 2:20 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What do you think this might mean for your life?

1 Corinthians 7:22-23.

Romans 6: 18 & 22.

In Greek there are actually seven different words for 'servant'. Whenever the term carries the sense of being formally bound to another the word used is doulos which is commonly translated as 'bond slave'.

How did a bond slave differ from an ordinary slave?

In the light of this, what do you think Paul means in the last set of verses?

Luke 11:28.

John 14:15; 21, 23 and 24.

John 15:10.

James 1:22-24.

1 John 2:5-6.

What is the key to true life in the Kingdom of God?

Compare Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18 and Mark 12:30-31.

What word has Jesus inserted when linking these two Scriptures?

If we say we love God then we must go further than just understanding it in our mind; our lives must show it...The rabbis taught that the depth of our love for God is measured by how much love we give to our neighbour.

TRUE REPENTANCE:

1 John 1:9. How does repentance begin?

The Greek word *homologeō* means:

The Hebrew word *t'shuvah* means:

Hebrews 4:12.

What is it that '*judges the thoughts and attitudes of our heart?*'

Luke 9:23-24.

What do you think Jesus is saying here?

Why do we find this so hard?

Father God is looking for our complete allegiance and obedience. Confession of sin is not enough. For God to truly reign and rule as King, our lives need to bring forth the fruit of repentance: our returning to Him with all our heart, soul and strength. This is a long process.

The word 'determined' means:

What that might this re-prioritising mean for you?

Father God is looking for a people who will determine to make Him King; those who will allow Him to reign in them and over them by making His Kingdom their priority. This means a CHANGE OF HEART!

1 John 1:5-10.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you just one area in your life where you are being 'double-minded'.

Confess this sin to Father God.

Week 2: BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Matthew 3:1-17. How did Jesus publicly show His heart allegiance to God?

What does the water represent?

The Greek word translated 'baptise' means 'to dip, soak or immerse' into a liquid until what is immersed takes on the qualities of what it has been dipped in. E.g. cloth soaked in dye takes on the colour of the dye.

Romans 6:3-14.

With this understanding, does what the water represent take on a new meaning?

Acts 2:38.

The author's statement of the meaning of believer's baptism: 'I want to so take on the qualities of Jesus so that nothing of the old me remains. The former me has died and been buried in the same way

Jesus was. When something is truly dead it does not usually get up and live again. Therefore I believe my old nature has gone forever. When I rise up out of this water it will be a new me; one who has all the supernatural power of the God-head living in me. This means I have the spiritual potential to day by day live a totally transformed and transforming life for God's Kingdom in the power of the Holy Spirit just like Jesus did'.

What then is believer's baptism?

Should we take water baptism lightly?

Matthew 3:15.

Hebrews 4:15.

Romans 3:23-26.

2 Corinthians 5:21.

Why was Jesus baptised when He was sinless?

Luke 3:23. Does anyone know the significance of us being told Jesus' age when He was baptised?

Matthew 3:16-17.

Luke 3:21-22.

Mark 1:9-11.

John 1:32-34.

What happened when Jesus was baptised?

Acts 2:38-39. What is promised to those who are baptised?

Why is this gift necessary for us if we are truly going to bring our lives under the King's rule?

Is believer's baptism important?

Acts 10:48.

What sort of instruction is this?

Baptism in the early church:

Jewish practice:

Infant baptism:

Infant baptism at its best is a sincere act of consecration on behalf of the Christian parents and looks to subsequent instruction and personal conversion as a condition for full membership of the church; hence confirmation was instituted as a supplement to infant baptism. However, the two forms of baptism are clearly not the same and cannot share the same meaning.

The difference between total immersion and effusion (sprinkling).

NOTES:
