

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 26th February 2017

...YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOR EVER
The Transforming Grace of Holiness

As we Gather

The Bible is full of the holiness and sovereignty of God. His glory and His majesty, His power and His greatness were early lessons in the history of Israel – God’s chosen people.

In a world of idolatry, at times God manifested Himself on earth in a created glory: At the burning bush Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God (Exodus 3:6); Isaiah saw the fringe of God’s glory in the hem of His robe which filled the temple (Isaiah 6:1-5); and the glory of God shining from the face of the risen Christ (who is the image of the invisible God) blinded Saul of Tarsus on the way to Damascus (Acts 9:3-8).

For the ancient Hebrew the Holy of Holies was a frightening place. For the modern Christian is it only because Christ has gone there as our Redeemer and Mediator that it has become our eternal home (Hebrews 9-10), and that when we pray we can approach with confidence our Father in heaven (Hebrews 11:19).

Reading Scripture Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

Thinking Together

Matthew records that about a week after Jesus had found it necessary to rebuke Peter’s response to His telling His disciples of His need to go to Jerusalem and what was going to happen there, Jesus selected the three disciples closest to Him to accompany Him up into the high mountain. The vision they saw of the Transfiguration of Jesus was

- A special revelation of Jesus’ divinity (Matthew 16:28) as they witnessed Him coming into His kingdom (2 Peter 1:12-21). Through His transfiguration Jesus
= showed the disciples the glory of His kingdom (Ezekiel 1:25-2:2). It is into this glory that believers are called (John 17:24 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).

How can you reveal the glory of God’s kingdom in your daily interactions with people?

Discuss

= taught that hearing God’s Word (Matthew 17:5) is more important than marvelling at the beauty and awesomeness of creation, music, art, or poetry.
All believers belong to the spiritual kingdom of God, but when Jesus returns to earth those who have trusted Him will reign with Him on earth (John 3:3-6
Revelation 5:9-10)

How does this knowledge make you feel? Discuss

- A brief glimpse of the true glory of the King as Jesus allowed His inner glory to radiate out (Matthew 17:2 Hebrews 1:3).
Throughout the New Testament God’s glory and worship due to Him are shared with Jesus in His forgiving sins, judging sin, and receiving honour and worship (Mark 2:10 John 5:22-23
Philippians 2:9-11 Revelation 5:13).
The Transfiguration revealed the following aspects of Jesus’ glory
= the glory of His person, to
 - Strengthen the faith of the disciples – particularly Peter- who believed Jesus to be the Son of God, but needed reassurance

Do you sometimes need reassurance in your faith? Discuss
When do you need strengthening most? Discuss

Do you agree with the statement “A church filled with vibrant, growing Christians is not likely to fall prey to false teachings and counterfeit Christianity”. Discuss

- Transform the minds of those who yield their lives / themselves to God and to the influence of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1-2 2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

Are you aware of the ways you are changing spiritually and morally since becoming a Christ-follower? Discuss

= the glory of His Cross as the disciples had to learn that He was glorified in death; that suffering and glory go together

What revealed this to the disciples? Discuss (Matthew 17:3 + 5 Luke 9:30-31)

Peter had opposed Jesus going to Jerusalem (Matthew 16:21-21), and Jesus had to teach him that if he did not suffer and die, there could be no glory.

Every disciples, then and now, has a need for this important truth – first suffering and then glory (Acts 12:1-2 John 21:15-19 2 Peter 1:12).

What is your cross? Discuss

For believers, physical death is a release from the bondage of this life, into the glorious freedom of life in the kingdom of heaven / God. Because died and paid the price for our sin we have been saved from eternal spiritual death (separation from God), and set free from the guilt and power of sin (Galatians 1:3-5 Titus 2:11-14).

The glory of the Cross also reveals the power of God.

God’s sovereignty is the immovable foundation of faith (Isaiah 46:9-10). Often God’s power is hidden, although in the Gospels, Jesus’ healing of the sick and raising of the dead not only revealed His (divine) glory, but also His (divine) power and wisdom (John 11:40-44 Luke 8:50-52 1 Corinthians 1:18-25).

That same power is at work today - vested in Christ and at work in believers (Romans 8:10-11 Philippians 3:20-21).

How does this knowledge make you feel? Discuss

Where and how do you see / experience god’s power? Discuss

- God’s divine affirmation of everything that Jesus had done and was going to do (Matthew 17:3 + 5-7).
Throughout His life , Jesus lived for the glory of God in all He did and said (Luke 2:41-52 Matthew 12:46-50 Matthew 26:36-44), yet in His humanity, He needed His Father’s approval, and the confirmation of the Law and the Prophets (Father’s will and Messianic prophesies), before He faced His final physical humiliation and suffering.

Jesus is glorified when we deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him.

How does the above statement make you feel? Discuss

What does 'deny ourselves' mean in your life? Discuss

In Closing

In true worship / prayer the struggles / trials / losses / gains of this life take second place as believers make a statement of faith that expresses their hope and declares their love for their Creator and King.

PRAYER

Holy God –

on the Mount of Transfiguration you revealed your Son as the Christ,
Transform our lives in His image; write your law of love our hearts,
and make us prophets of your shining splendour; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

NOTE TO HOME GROUPS

**IF YOU WISH TO SPREAD THE NOTES OVER MORE THAN ONE WEEK PLEASE DO SO.
THE NOTES FOR THE 4 WEEKS OF MARCH WILL BE IN THE FORM OF LENTEN MEDITATIONS.**