

Thy Kingdom Come (Day 2)
Friday 22nd May 2020

'If My people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, they I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and will heal their land'.

(2 Chronicles 7:14).

Last week I preached on the passage from John 14, if you remember verse 15 began with the little word **'If'**. Jesus said, **"If** you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth.

(John 14:15-16)

I stressed the importance of not overlooking this little word which the passage began with, because its weighty and significant and undoubtedly will have major implications on how we walk in our journey of faith with Jesus, **'If**, you keep, Jesus said. The little word implies conditional obedience to his commands. As I have used an OT passage for our reflections over the next 10 days, we also find the same challenge set before us in the opening verse from 2 Chronicles 7:14 where God says, 'If my people. This is significant because God expects His people to live His way or expect there will be consequence especially **IF** they don't acknowledge and repent of their sin.

If we do things God's way and adhere to His teachings and commandments as brought to us by Jesus. God will preserve our soul and we will live in peace with Him in eternal glory as promised. However, **IF** we stray and do things our way, this is rebellion and Hebrews warns us with these words,

'If we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no further sacrifice for sins remains...'

(Hebrews 10:26)

Did you notice that little word again, 'If?'

IF we try to change things to make ourselves righteous before God without changing our lives. Consider what John writes in his first letter saying,

'If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us'

(1 John 1:8)

Did you notice that little word again, 'If?'

IF we dismiss parts of God's teaching to fit in with our way.

'You must not add to or subtract from what I command you, so that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God I am giving you today'

(Deuteronomy 4:2)

There is no 'if' in this verse only you must not.

IF we turn to the world and live their way and sin; then we have broken the promise and there will be repercussions.

'Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me..."'

(John 8:41)

Did you notice that little word again, 'If?'

God is patient and long suffering and judgement finally does come. In Genesis God gave the the people 120 years to repent before the floods came. When we read of the destruction of the

Canaanites, God waited 400 years for their sins to reach the point of no return before He used the Israelites as His rod of judgement. Likewise He used the Philistines as His method of chastisement to Israel whenever they had forgotten the commandments of God.

God would often wait generations before His judgement comes. It may take several generations for this to happen, but when God says, "Enough," we all suffer, the righteous as well as the unrighteous.

So now, as we return to the words God spoke to Solomon he offered the people a way out of their predicament and it all began with that little word which was conditional for God to hear their prayer and bring healing, and that word was 'If'

So the challenge is, have we got the courage to pray to God for His guidance, especially as it's so hard to keep on His right path. Have we got the perseverance to pray for our 5 people and also to for God's church to turn back to Him, placing their trust in Him alone. We must take God and His word seriously because so much depends on 'If' we do and 'If' we don't!

Task:

Do we need to confess anything before God today?

Did I recognise any of the 'if' statements applying to my own ways?

If so then seek God, turn from the wicked ways and He will hear our prayers.

The Holy Spirit will guide us into truth and Jesus promised to set us free

'If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed'

(John 8:36)

Pray for your 5.....