

## Thy Kingdom Come (Day 3) Saturday 23rd May 2020

‘If **My People** who are called by My Name”

‘If **My People...**’

Here is a challenging question for us to think about, ‘Are all mankind God’s children?’ Some will answer, yes, stating we are all made in the image of God and as God is Father, they conclude we are all children of God, regardless of what they believe! What do you think? The problem with this approach, it can lead us into a theological blind alley called universalism. So what does the Scriptures say?

Did you know that the lost are never referred to as God’s children? This is not to say that God does not have a deep compassion and love for his creation because the Scriptures are clear on this point. One of the most quoted verses of Scripture is John 3:16, ‘For God so loved the world...’. But not everyone can claim the title as a child of God and not everyone wants to. Atheists reject any idea of a God and have no interest in owning His name for themselves, agnostics are unsure whose name to own and universalists and pluralists say it doesn’t matter whose name we take.

For those who own the name Christian, followers of Jesus the Christ, we submit our lives and give our heart to Jesus through repentance and faith and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Read Romans chapter 8, see how Paul refers to this state of being when he says,

‘For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.....the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry Abba Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our Spirit that we are God’s children.

**(Romans 8:14-17).**

We are adopted into God’s family and the Holy Spirit dwells within us, therefore we can cry out to God as Abba (Hebrew), Father. This is how we begin our family prayer with the words, ‘Our Father...’ Only the children of God have this privilege. John in his first letter makes a distinction between the children of the world who reject God and His ways, and the children of the Spirit, the children of God, and writes,

‘See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God.....’

**(1 John 3:1-2)**

Just because we belong to a denomination, attend services, been baptised and carry a membership ticket doesn’t qualify us as children of God. When Jesus is speaking with the religious leaders, Pharisees and teachers He makes this distinction clear when He challenges them saying,

“If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me”.....You belong to your father, the devil and you want to carry out your father’s desires.’

**(John 8:42-44).**

It all comes down to what we do with Jesus. This shouldn’t surprise us because it is written in the first pages of our bibles. Turn to chapter 3 of Genesis and read what God says to the Serpent, the devil. Genesis 3:15 tells us that God would ‘Put enmity between Satan and the woman, between your offspring and hers. Her offspring is a prophetic pointing forward

to Jesus who is the seed of the woman. Notice it does not say the seed of the man, nor does it say seed of women! Only One was born of woman's seed only and this is the Incarnate One, Jesus Christ. And there would be enmity (active opposition or hostility) between the woman's seed (Jesus followers) and Satan's offspring, those who are following the desires of the world and reject the ways of God.

So to answer the question, are we all children of God? The answer is no! When we are born into this world we are born into sin, we are sons of Adam. The Scriptures are clear that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, we must be born again. We only become God's children when we repent of our sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Then we are brought into a right relationship with God as the Prodigal son was and formally reinstated into the family. Read Galatians 4:5-6 and Ephesians 1:5. We are adopted into God's own family and given His name, we are His children, now that's amazing!

### **If my people who are called by my name**

Spend time reflecting on what it means to you to be a child of God  
What does this mean to you that you have been given the opportunity to be formally adopted into His family and become true heirs of the inheritance.

Does this humble you?  
Does it increase your desire to pray?

### **Pray**

for your 5 names you want to hold before God our heavenly Father and let your prayers be guided by the Holy Spirit and then conclude your prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **Amen**