

Group Agenda – January 26, 2008

Lesson: "Calling on the Name of the Lord"

Passage: Various

Background

Milton described this week the concept of "calling on the name of the Lord." Many thoughts and activities are brought up about how one becomes a disciple of Jesus. But Milton described a threefold process:

1. HEAD (Intellectual Response)
2. HEART (Emotional Response)
3. HANDS (Practical, Physical Response)

Each of us must deal with all these issues when we want to follow the Lord. First, we must hear, interpret, examine, understand, and decide what we think about the claims of Christ. Some take longer to do this than others. Secondly, once we decide God's Word is true, we must decide if we are committed to acting upon it, to submitting our lives to his rule. Thirdly, we must go forth and obey – act upon our intellectual and emotional responses.

IceBreaker

As you were growing up, what did you learn about the process of becoming a follower of Jesus? What was the dividing line, if any, between those "officially" following Christ, and those who were outside his family?

Read & Discuss

- Review and briefly discuss the following scriptures. Have different members of the group read and comment on each. How is the phrase "call on the name of the Lord" used in each?

1. Acts 2:21
2. Gen. 4:26
3. 1 Kings 18:24
4. 2 Kings 5:11
5. Psalms 80:18
6. Psalms 116:13
7. Jeremiah 10:25
8. Joel 2:32
9. Zechariah 13:9
10. 1 Cor. 1:2

- As a person considers the possibility of following Christ, it usually begins as an intellectual question and pursuit. How does preaching and sharing God's Word with others help them as they traverse the intellectual side of following Christ (c.f. Rom. 10:14-17)?
- List some verbs that describe to you what a person does in the "Head/Intellectual" part of the calling on the Name process (e.g. meditate, evaluate, examine, etc.).
- Once someone has heard the basics about Christ, understood them clearly, and agreed these things are true, he is faced with the "heart" facet of the faith process. What are some of the verbs/actions that describe what a person does as they emotionally invest in "calling on the name of the Lord."
- Consider Rom. 10:9-10. is this describing a primarily intellectual act, or just a checklist of activities to ingratiate oneself to God? Once we clearly grasp the ideas about God's love and work for us in Christ, what does God want most to happen in us?
- Is God happy when we decide his Word is true? How about when we are deeply convicted, and promise to give ourselves wholly to him? What if we never lifted a finger to serve, give, change, or grow – would he be satisfied then with our "faith?"

Apply

- Some people believe intellectually, but avoid the trouble of commitment or submission. Others are passionate about God, yet don't have adequate understanding of who he is or what he wants. Still others are knowledgeable, passionate in their religious observations, yet never really serve, love, give, and do good works for Christ. Where would you say your process of "calling on the name of the Lord" began? Is strongest? Needs to grow?
- What is one area of your life you desire to devote more fully this year to Christ – head, heart, or hands?

Pray

- Lift up those whom God brings to us, that we might help them devote themselves fully to Christ with head, heart, and hands!
- Ask the Lord to help you move forward in your process of calling on his name, wherever you are in your walk. Pray for God to reveal practical steps this week.