

Thy Kingdom Come: Am I Great in the Kingdom?

Reflect

1. What do you think it means to be *great* in this life?
2. Have you ever created something that you took pride in? What was it?
3. When you see yourself, do you see someone who is God's handiwork? Why or why not?
4. If you were to die in a car accident this afternoon, and come face to face with Jesus, and He asked you, "Why should I let you into Heaven?" what would your response be?

Read Your Bible

- Ephesians 2:8-10
- Matthew 5:17-20

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that He did not come to *abolish* the Law or the Prophets, but to *fulfill* them?
2. Jesus said that nothing will disappear until 'everything is accomplished (finished).' What did He mean by this? (Read John 19:30)
3. Do you think it is possible to follow God's Commandments to perfection? Why or why not?
4. Since we have *all* sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), how can we ever be called 'great' in the kingdom of heaven?

5. Do you think you do enough good to get you into heaven? How do you know?
6. What did Jesus Christ do for us 2,000 years ago so that we could be forgiven and made 'great'?
7. This salvation that God offers us is a gift. Have you received this gift of salvation from God? Here is our challenge for you: Discuss this in more depth with someone you know.
8. How can you show gratitude to God this week for offering you this gift?

Conclusion

- Jesus came down to earth willingly to save lost sinners from their sin. When Jesus died on the Cross, He did not fight it to the end, but received it as God's will and went there willingly so that you and I could be forgiven. Sometimes we think more highly of ourselves than we probably should, when it was our sin that put Jesus on the Cross in the first place. But the Bible tells us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). It is not by our good works that we are saved. We cannot save ourselves or try to earn a spot in heaven. We can only be saved and be made 'great' by receiving God's gift of grace. Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we deserved so that we could be forgiven. In response to this goodness from God, we are called to follow Him and obey His commandments, not so *that* we may be saved, but because we have *already been* saved by Him if we have received His grace. How will your life reflect the greatness of God?

Pray

- Our Highest God in Heaven, You came to set the captives free. You truly died to bring eternal life and lived that death may die. We honor You here today, and humbly ask that You forgive us and redeem us. We cannot be made great on our own, but it is Your grace that makes us great. So please come Holy Spirit, forgive us our sins, cleanse us of unrighteousness, and lead us to honor You with our whole lives as we live in obedience to Your will and commandments. Through Christ our Lord. Amen!