

Conversation Starter

For the week of May 4 to 10, 2008

This Week's Theme: Living With King Jesus
Reading #1: Matthew 10:7
Reading #2: Daniel 4:3
Reading #3: Exodus 19:6
Reading #4: Romans 5:5
Reading #5: Revelation 21:10 & 22-27
Reading #6: John 14:23-29
Reading #7: John 14:1-4

When the word "kingdom" is used in the Bible, it can refer to many different types of kingdoms. For example, there are the numerous earthly kingdoms ruled by people, there's the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 10:7), there's an eternal kingdom (Daniel 4:3), a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:6), and the kingdom of God that is within our hearts (Romans 5:5). As we think about these various kingdoms, people belong to them as a result of their physical birth, their spiritual new birth and/or their death. For example, at birth (as babies) people become citizens of an earthly kingdom. In our case, it's Canada. And then if they become followers of Jesus, they join the kingdom of priests and have the kingdom of God living within them. And then Christians have this to look forward to: when life for them on earth is over, they become citizens in the kingdom of heaven – God's eternal kingdom -- forever. As a follower of Jesus Christ, you not only have the privilege of belonging to and participating in a variety of kingdoms, but you have the privilege of living with King Jesus in a variety of ways. (1) For example, reading #5 reminds us of the future time when we will be with Jesus in what is known as the new heaven and new earth. These are places where God and the Lamb Jesus are its temple, where the glory of God rather than the sun and moon provide the light, and where nothing impure will ever enter. (2) And then reading #6 focuses on living with Jesus in a close, personal way. Jesus said, *"If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."* (See John 14:23) (3) And finally, living with King Jesus gives us hope that death is not the end. As noted in reading #7 above, Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven right now. How exciting!!

1. As it relates to Jesus living within your heart, how has living with King Jesus changed your life?
2. As it relates to the reality that your earthly life will end some day, how does knowing you will be with Jesus forever help you face the future?
3. Is there anyone you know who does not have a personal friendship with Jesus? How do you know they do not?
4. What is keeping you from telling them about Jesus Christ?
5. Before Jesus lived in your heart, how did you feel about Him? Other Christians? The church? The Bible?
6. What do you think heaven will be like?

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