

- Background: I Kings 20:1-12
- I. The *LORD's* *victory* began with *one* person I Kings 20:14
- A. Ahab didn't *deserve* this *victory* I Kings 20:15-16, 25;
I Kings 16:30-33;18:17,19;
I Kings 21:8-10; Ex 33:19
- B. God's *victory* goal: *know* that He is *LORD* I Kings 20:13, 28;
Ex 3:13-15
- II. The LORD *rules* in all *realms*
- A. *gods* were *geographical* Gen 31:30;
Judges 18:17-20, 24;
I Sam 4:2-8
- B. Kingdom *geography* is *gigantic* Mark 1:15;
Luke 17:20-21
- III. The LORD is *known* through our *transformed* lives
- A. The Kingdom *grows* *inside* us John 10:10;
Rom 12:2;
James 1:21; 5:16;
I John 1:9
- B. The Kingdom *flows* *out* from us Acts 11:26;
I Pet 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Care Group Questions

“Inside Out”

Text: 1 Kings 20:1-29; 1 Pet 2:9

John Stone

March 11, 2007

1. ShareFest morning will include Starbucks and Spudnuts. If you could choose your favorite place to eat or get a drink, what would they be?
2. What are some ways that God has shown mercy (not given you what you deserved) to you lately?
3. What are things in your life that you feel make you “undeserving” of God’s favor or mercy? Can you recall and share a time (post-conversion) when you experienced His favor despite your unworthiness?
4. How would you describe your daily habits of prayer, Bible reading, and confession?
5. What do you think it means to “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Matt. 5:6)? Do you think that phrase describes you? Why or why not?
6. What lords have you served in the past? Are you serving any right now?
7. What is an area of your life that needs to be transformed by making Jesus LORD of that area?
8. Spend time in prayer not simply for ShareFest this week (though do that!), but also for our personal lives to be such that people call us Christians!

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Admit it -- we all feel the gap of the in-between. You know the gap between where you are spiritually and where you'd like to be. At a youth meeting several weeks ago, we sang a song called "Breathe." I listened to it again recently and was struck by the words. Here they are:

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence
Living in me

This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very words
Spoken to me

And I...I'm desperate for You
And I...I'm lost without You

Is that true for you today? Do you sense His Holy Presence living in you? Are you taking conscious time to invite His Presence to lead and guide you? Have you taken time to eat the bread of the Word today and let them change you?

Are you truly desperate and lost without Him? Or are they simply spiritual sounding words that you can mouth?

We will never diffuse life to others if we do not have this desperateness about ourselves. If you don't sense this today, the beautiful part of Christianity is that there is NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus! Just spend some time explaining to Him where you're at and tell Him where you hope to go. You don't have to work harder spiritually in order to change -- you humbly confess your shortfall and ask Him to help you. His job is the in-between. God opposes the proud (those who want to seem like they have it all together when they don't), but He gives grace to the humble (those who acknowledge their gap and ask for mercy and help).

May you cry for Him to span the gap of your in-between today with His amazing grace.

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