

THE GREATEST QUESTION EVER 16.9.18

Luke 7:36-50. One of the most beautiful passages that demonstrate Jesus love, care and kindness towards humanity – towards the girl who had sinned much and towards the man whose religiosity also kept him at a distance. ‘Who loved the most Simon?’ Jesus asked.

God has asked great questions over time.

‘Where are you Adam?’

‘Where is your brother?’

‘Where is He?’ asked the wise men of Jesus.

Some questions are difficult to answer but God calls us out on some things. We are either pregnant, or not; born again or not; Jesus is either the Lord God Almighty, or He isn’t.

There is one question that we must all answer and take great care that we are not distracted – drawn away from the royal and real deal.

God spoke to Job, Job 38:3: ‘Brace yourself like a man. I will question you and you will answer Me.’ For 2 chapters God asks questions that clearly reveal that who God is beyond natural understanding and He is not willing that the understanding of who He is be darkened by our lack.

At Philippi, the Philippian jailer asked ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ The answer is always that we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. We must know Jesus.

In the same area, Jesus asked ‘Who do you say I am?’ He is not looking for the answer ‘they’ have, nor an echo of someone else’s understanding. If we don’t know who He is, we can’t know who we are, nor what He has asked us to.

Much of what Jesus did was confrontational and opinions were rampant.

How would ‘they’ speak of Jesus today in regard to the company He kept, opening graves, advising fishermen, advising tax collectors, financial planning, food distribution, sending pigs into the sea, killing the fig tree, practicing healing without a licence.

Peter had a divine understanding of who Jesus is – the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus builds His Church on this – one person at a time coming into this revelation. This is John 17 – coming into oneness with God as individuals – know who God is; knowing His love for humanity; knowing His cause to show humanity this love and lead them to Christ.

David saw something like this – Ps 133. A nation (a mass of people) had gathered for a cause greater than themselves. Behold (worth checking out) how good and pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together in unity. (For the Hebrews it needed to be good/God to be pleasant; for the Greeks it needed to be pleasing/pleasant to self to be good. Not always what is pleasant to the eye is good).

The oneness that flows from understanding who God really is – Jesus, the Lord God almighty, is life forevermore; it is salvation. Unity is not the goal, it is always the result. Jesus asked that great question ‘who do you say I am?’ on a place very near David’s experience as recorded in Ps 133.

He too knew the fragmentation of people, of life over long time. His desire – that we would be one, that the world would know Father’s heart, to see His Kingdom come.

What is Father’s heart towards humanity? Who do you say He is?

The beginning of this understanding and oneness is to agree that Jesus Christ is the Lord God Almighty. From there we will know who we are, and what He has asked us to do.