

Care Group Homework  
(For the week of January 24, 2010)  
The Importance of the Kingdom

Getting to know one another:

1. We live in a world of incredible technology. If you had to give up two of the technologies below for 24/7, which would they be and why?

Cell Phone, TV Programming, Email / Social Networking  
Internet (w/o social networking), DVD & DVR Capabilities  
Digital Photography & Mobile Music (MP3 players, etc.)  
If you could only keep one, which would it be and why?

2. We've just finished the first decade of the 2000s. Looking back on the past 10 years of your life, what would you list as 3 or 4 highlights?

3. Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

Getting into the Word:

4. Reread our text (Acts 1:1-9). What strikes you most about this passage?

*The text has so many significant issues - the mention of the 40 days of proofs, the emphasis upon the kingdom, the promise of the Holy Spirit and the great commission. Another point of interest is the question asked by the disciples of Jesus restoring the kingdom to Israel. We have spoken of the Kingdom of God over the past few weeks and I would have thought that the disciples would have asked about restoring the kingdom of Israel instead of restoring the kingdom to Israel. This comes from a bit of laziness on our part assuming the interchangeableness of Israel/God and perhaps the church.*

5. The text tells us that Jesus gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. What proofs would convince you that someone had risen from the dead?

*The necessity of these convincing proofs indicates the depth of their conviction that Jesus was dead. That conviction probably was more than just a result of the physical evidence. The emotional confusion caused by such a horrific death would not be easy to overcome. Some would have seen Lazarus come from his grave, but Lazarus presumably died of natural causes, not the gruesome death suffered on a cross. You can convince yourself that Lazarus was really just in a deep deep sleep. But Jesus had his hands and feet nailed to a cross. His side was pierced. This was no sleep that he suffered. To be convinced that he had come back alive would probably have required some proof that it was really him. Perhaps also I would have needed to see the wounds and wondered how they could have been overcome.*

6. The texts says Jesus taught about the kingdom and then the disciples asked about the kingdom. What do you think the disciples thought the kingdom would look like?

*The disciples ask about restoring the kingdom to Israel, so it would seem a safe bet that they would see the kingdom at least in part involving a restoration of a Davidic throne and rule on earth. Perhaps an overthrow of the Roman government and a return to theocratic rule.*

7. The message gave three ways that we show that the kingdom is important to us. Which of the three is most challenging to you personally? How could you improve?