

Home Group study notes

Week beginning 24th August

Jesus tells us his Father's house has many rooms and he's preparing a place for us there. What do you think this house, and your room, will be like?

Read John 4: 1-14

This sermon series has been about the radical, revolutionary things Jesus said. How many radical or revolutionary statements can you find in this passage?

Discovery

What does this passage tell us about Jesus' relationship with his Father? Although on this occasion Jesus is speaking privately to his disciples, he was not afraid to say similar things in public. If you were a zealous Jew hearing these things how might you react? Why was Jesus not more careful about what he said in public?

We acknowledge Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Why then does he say in verse 10 that he is not speaking on his own authority? Do you think that is an extraordinary thing to say?

How do we react to verse 12? Do we know this to be true?

Application

Of all the radical revolutionary statements Jesus makes, possibly verse 6 is the most radical and revolutionary. We live in a society that puts an ever increasingly high value on tolerance. Is tolerance always a good thing for society?

There is a real danger to us in interpreting this verse in a way that makes Christianity seem intolerant, arrogant and exclusive. Yet one of the radical changes Christianity brought about was that it gave Gentiles as well as Jews access to the one true God and broke down the exclusivity of the Jews. As we know from Acts and Paul's writings this was not without controversy: even Paul and Peter had a falling out about it. How then do we balance this radical truth with preaching a gospel which will attract people in an age that puts such value on tolerance?