

ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

MATT 18 V 1 – 4 READ

Disciples asked who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven

“unless you change”

Acknowledges what we are like

Become like children/humble yourselves/sacrifice

Children - Trusting and unpretentious

Not seeking authority/power/position/respect

CHANGE

Matt 19 - Rich young man – sell possessions and follow me – could not do it

He had an encounter with Jesus – yet he was unchanged – carried on in the same way

We have a choice – he was not prepared to “change”

We want everything + Jesus on top

ANTZ @ Soul Survivor

ie everything the world has + Jesus – but it doesn't work like that – there is a calling to serve/sacrifice – to give up something so that we can take up something else.

We need to be different – hard – challenge – it will cost you something

It's really hard if you own/possess stuff which you consider yours – need to hand it over

Do we really believe God is God?? All powerful?

Calling of Matthew – Tax collector

MATT 9 V 9 – 13

Jesus criticised for mixing with tax collectors and sinners – by the Pharisees – they kept away from those people

Jesus was not condoning their actions but pointed out that he had come to meet these people who needed him – not the religious type who distanced themselves from “sinners” kept the law and thought they were doing good - but were ignoring what was going on around them and the needs that were not being met.

Our greatest need is to engage people with the gospel

Matthew party

Survey says the average person in the UK believes in God but does not go to church – why? We need to engage them

We have spent much time on worship/preaching/caring/community etc – we now need to focus on the gospel

We need to focus on relationships/

Warren Jones “Keep the main thing the main thing”

To do this we need to reconnect with God

Look at Saul after his encounter with God on the Damacus road.

Look at the disciples after Pentecost

We need a fresh/daily infilling of the holy spirit

We need to change – break the norm

READ

ROM 12 V 2 – 6

Be transformed by the renewing of your minds