

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 *The Rejection of the King.*

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

The religious leaders felt threatened by Jesus. They lorded it over the people religiously and they liked their power of influence and prestige. Jesus came on the scene doing things like cleansing the temple – which they considered their turf (cf. Jn. 2). And then He said things like “**Your sins are forgiven you**” (Matt. 9:2) or “**the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath**”. The religious leaders clearly understood these claims to be God-like claims and they flatly rejected the Lordship claims of Jesus Christ.

Still, they had a problem as the amazing miracles of Christ were undeniable. When Jesus healed a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute Pharisees said Jesus did it by the power of Satan casting out demons by “**the ruler of the demons**” (Matt. 12:24).

Jesus called this sin “**blasphemy against the Spirit**” and said it was unforgivable (Mt. 12:31-32). The Spirit is called the “**Spirit of truth**” (Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) and the miracles that Christ did were so clearly of God that to sin against the Spirit’s testimony through them was to pass beyond the point of return.

And a major reason this sin was so egregious is because what Christ did in the power of the Spirit lined up perfectly with the Scriptures. The Spirit’s ministry and the Scriptures consistently go together. To sin against the Spirit is to sin against the truth of the Scripture. So put this combination together.

Slide # 2

The prophetic truth of the Scriptures

The miracles of Christ fulfilling Scripture

The Spirit’s witness

Let me show you what I mean. The Pharisees knew the Scriptures well. They prided themselves on their knowledge of God’s Word. They knew very well that Isaiah 42 was a premier Messianic passage.

Slide # 3

Isaiah 42:1 (NKJV)

1 “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

This passage develops a definite line of thought concerning the coming Messiah and it builds to verses 7-9 in where the centerpiece is shown to be the GLORY of God. God there says He will not share His glory with any other. Well, what in CONTEXT is this glory? The answer is that it is prophetic truth concerning the Messiah and specifically that He will open the eyes of the blind and deliver those in bondage – which is exactly what Jesus did in relation to the demon-possessed man who was blind, mute. Jesus healed him and delivered him from Satan’s prison house.

Slide # 4

Isaiah 42:7–9 (NKJV)

7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison,
Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Again, the context of Isaiah 42 is a MESSIANIC prophecy concerning God’s elect special Servant (the Messiah) who would be uniquely empowered by the Spirit; who would open the eyes of the blind; and deliver those in bondage. All of this was new prophetic truth through Isaiah that God would bring to pass in the person of the Messiah. This is God’s doing – this is God’s GLORY alone!

When Jesus fulfilled this it should have been so clear! It fulfilled Isa. 42 to the letter. This was God’s UNIQUE glory being displayed through Jesus.

Jesus explained that the only way demons can be cast out is by exhibiting a superior power which in effect was PROOF that Jesus did it by the Spirit of God. He then made the pronouncement that to sin against the Spirit with this level of blasphemy was unforgiveable. And He further explained that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. These blasphemers revealed the wickedness of their hearts.

And then adding insult to the blasphemy of the Spirit the Pharisees had the audacity to demand yet another sign that would be MORE convincing which would serve as proof to them that Jesus really was operating by the power of God and not by the power of Satan as they charged.

Jesus told them that it was evil to seek a further sign and took them right back to Scripture with the examples of Jonah and Solomon. Neither did sign-miracles. Jonah simply preached And Solomon shared his God-given wisdom. This is how God works! He works powerfully through His Word.

And thus the ministry of Jesus the Messiah was superior to what God gave Jonah and Solomon in the sense that the prophecies concerning the Messiah were more glorious in fulfillment than either of their ministries.

Jesus then went on to give a parable or an analogy that is descriptive of where the nation of Israel was at as seen in the rejection of their Messiah and explained what is really needed is not religious or self-reformation but rather relationship with Him. Relationship with Jesus the Messiah is the all-important issue.

Matthew 12:43–50 (NKJV)

43 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.

Again, Jesus is speaking in the form of a parable to illustrate the spiritual condition of Israel.

The idea of the spirit going through “dry places” is based on the idea that dry desert arid areas were the haunt of demons (cf. Isa. 13:19-22; 34:13-14; Jer. 17:6; 22:6; 50:12; 51:43; Zeph. 2:13; Mal. 1:3; Rev. 18:2). When Christ was tempted He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness – the dry barren area (cf. Matt. 4).

The demon in this condition desires embodiment by which to find “rest” (so to speak) but finds none. It does seem that demons crave embodiment. They want a “host” (so to speak). In Matt. 8 when Jesus was about to cast the demons out of the demoniacs the demons begged Jesus to allow them to go into a herd of swine (cf. Mt. 8:28-31). They want to possess something – preferably a human! And they largely do their work through people whom they possess.

For example, the Bible talks about the “doctrines of demons” which will be prevalent in the last days of the Church Age. These doctrines are inspired by demons but then propagated through FALSE teachers.

Slide # 5**1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)**

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,**

44 Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

In this parable the man is the house for the demon which represents Israel. After the demon left – finding no one else to possess – he then returns to the house and finds it “empty, swept, and put in order.” That sounds really good. It represents the REFORMATION brought about in Israel perhaps after the Babylonian Exile or in conjunction with the ministry of John the Baptist and the early ministry of Christ.

Prior to the Babylonian Captivity Israel was involved in gross Idolatry of the worst sort. However, after the Babylonian Captivity Israel has never again fallen into overt formal idolatry. In that sense their “house” has been reformed – being “empty, swept, and put in order.”

The Pharisees were classic moralists. No other Jews, and certainly no Gentiles, were committed to such rigid standards of religion, morality, ethics, and daily living. They lived by a complex and demanding code, a system of laws that regulated virtually every aspect of life. – **John MacArthur**

Also, when John the Baptist came on the scene preaching the need to repent Jesus said their initial response was seemingly positive – what we might call one of reformation (cf. Mt. 3:7-10).

Slide # 6

John 5:35 (NKJV)

35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were **willing for a time to rejoice in his light.**

But the point is mere REFORMATION is NOT enough! They say that nature abhors a vacuum. Something is going to move into that empty space. And the great issue is this: Will it be the devil or will it be God?

Over [two thousand] years ago, the Savior sought admittance to that empty house. He was the rightful Occupant, the Master of the house, but the people steadfastly refused to let Him in. Though they no longer worshiped idols, they would not worship the true God either.

– **William MacDonald**

This was the spiritual condition of Israel.

The empty house speaks of a spiritual vacuum – a dangerous condition, as the sequel shows. Reformation is not enough. There must be the positive acceptance of the Savior. – **William MacDonald**

By way of application there are many people in the Church today who are moralists or religionists and their lives outwardly indicate some measure of “reform” but in truth they are not saved.

The hardest people in the world are unsaved church members because they think they are all right. They have undergone self-reformation – empty, swept, and garnished. ... The Devil owns them, and they don't recognize this fact. Reformation means death and destruction. Regeneration means life and liberty. - **J. Vernon McGee**

The parable continues...

45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

Verse 45 indicates that there are degrees of wickedness among the demons. Some are more wicked than others. The worst of the worst, after the flood, were confined to chains of darkness in a special holding place called Tartarus to await final judgment (cf. 2 Pet. 2:4).

But in this parable the demon finding his former house (the body of this man) reformed but unoccupied, then takes with him seven other more wicked spirits and together they all possess the man making his last state worse than the first.

And then Jesus made this application: "**So shall it also be with this wicked generation.**" Yes, Judaism under the leadership of the Pharisees which emerged out of the Babylonian Captivity had forsaken formalized idolatry. In that sense the house of Israel was swept and clean.

But those man-made standards, purportedly based on God's Word, had led them further and further from God. They were so self-sufficient and self-righteous that when God Himself came among them in human form they rejected, vilified, and finally crucified Him.

– **John MacArthur**

Demonic activity and idolatry are very closely linked throughout the Bible. In 1 Cor. 8 and 10 Paul explains that idols within themselves are NOTHING. However, demons associated with idolatry are very real (cf. 1 Cor. 10:19-20).

Even though Israel ever since the time of the Babylonian Captivity has never fallen back into formalized idolatry, yet the very worst form of IDOLATRY is yet to be for them.

And that is the when the apostate nation of Israel will worship the Antichrist. At some point Israel will look to the Antichrist as their Savior and enter into a 7-year covenant with him as so stated in Dan. 9:27. This is elsewhere stated to be “**a covenant with death**” (cf. Isa. 28:15, 18). This will be the worst time in Israel’s history called in Jer. 30:7 “**the time of Jacob’s trouble**” (cf. Dan. 12:1; Mt. 24:21).

And yet in that context God will purge apostasy from the nation and 1/3 of the Jews will come to repentance and saving faith in Jesus as their Messiah as seen in Zechariah 13:8-9.

Slide # 7

Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)

7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

What we have in Matt. 12:43-45 is a summary of Israel’s history in parabolic form regarding her problem with idolatry! They had a demonic problem with idolatry in the OT. Then they were broken of this in the Babylonian Captivity which left their house swept and clean but at the same time empty. The Messiah came seeking to fill their house, but they refused Him. And consequently, the worst form of demonic idolatry is yet to come for the nation of Israel which will be realized under Antichrist.

Whether in the broad range of history or in an individual life, the same principle applies: outer reformation without inner transformation brings susceptibility to even worse evil than that from which one turned away. – **John MacArthur**

What Israel failed to realize is that religious reformation is not enough. We need God to fill our lives. We need relationship with God and not merely religious or moral reformation. This is what Jesus goes on to show!

Slide # 8



God has made us for Himself and to merely apply self-reformation is not sufficient. We need a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Instead of rules being our Lord we need the Lord Himself to be our Lord. Ultimately its not about Reformation but rather about Relationship. This is the whole issue. It's all about a life changing relationship with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is not enough to clean house; we must also invite in the right tenant. The Pharisees were proud of their “clean houses,” but their hearts were empty! Mere religion, or reformation, will not save. There must be regeneration, the receiving of Christ into the heart (see Rev. 3:20). – *Warren Wiersbe*

46 While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.

The cross-references to this text in Matt. 12:46-50 are found in Mark 3:31-35 and Luke 8:19-21. The setting is found in Mark 3:21.

Slide # 9

Mark 3:21 (NKJV)

21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, **“He is out of His mind.”**

During Christ's ministry his half-brothers did not yet believe in Him and perhaps His mother was also still uncertain about some things (cf. Jn. 7:3-5). Whatever the exact nuances involved it would seem that they were attempting a family intervention at this point.

Jesus was the oldest child in the family having been born first of His mother while she was still a virgin. Joseph is not mentioned – probably because he was already dead. After Jesus was left behind at the Temple at the age of 12, we never hear about Joseph again (cf. Lk. 2:41-51) – so it is assumed that he probably died sometime after that prior to Jesus entering into His public earthly ministry.

Jesus' family may have been trying to bring him to his senses (cf. Mk. 3:21); as the eldest son, Jesus would have been responsible for the care of the family after Joseph's death. – *ESV Study Bible*

The family was seeking to do an intervention – perhaps because it seemed kind of crazy that Jesus would be in such tension with the most esteemed of the religious leaders in the holy land.

It seemed one would have to be **“out of their mind”** to do this, and especially the oldest child and the one who was to be the leader of the family. This called for a family intervention. Throw in the masses following Jesus out of fascination over His miracles, His ceaseless activity, and His Lordship claims, and the family was concerned about where this was going.

But Jesus took advantage of this occasion to instruct the people that the thing that really matters is not ultimately physical family relationships but rather spiritual family relationships. *“Participation in the Messianic kingdom is not merely based upon a claim to Abraham’s family, [as so many Jews assumed] but it is contingent upon a spiritual relationship to Christ (Matthew 3:9).”* (Stanley Toussaint)

Slide # 10

In the Gospel record of the ministry of Jesus there are only two occasions (prior to the crucifixion) when Mary appears (here and in John 2:1-4). Both times she seeks to have a say in His affairs and both times she is reproved by Him. – **John Phillips**

So much for the errant theology that says Jesus will listen to His mother and therefore the attempt to seek Mary as a mediator. The Bible is very clear Mary is NOT a mediator and she cannot help you at the hour of your death.

Slide # 11

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV)

5 For there is one God and **one Mediator** between God and men, the Man **Christ Jesus**,

Such passages as these in Matthew 12 and John 2 anticipate and repudiate Roman Catholic dogmas that exalt Mary to the status of deity, teach the bodily assumption of Mary into Heaven, and make Mary redemptrix with Jesus. – **John Phillips**

I would remind us that while Mary was honored and blessed, she is not sinless. In Luke 7:46-47 Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.” Thus, Mary recognized that she too needed a Savior. Only sinners need a Savior, hence by Mary’s own confession it is clear that she was a sinner.

In Matthew 13:55-56 four half-brothers of Jesus are named, namely, James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas (also known as Jude). He also had half-sisters who are mentioned but they are not named (cf. Ps. 69:8; Mk. 3:31-32; 6:3; Jn. 7:3-5; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:5; Gal. 1:19).

After the resurrection Jesus' brothers came to believe in Him with James becoming the key leader of the Jerusalem church (cf. Acts 15:13-22), and author of the NT book of James. Jude went on to write the little letter called Jude in the NT. After the resurrection we find Mary and the brothers of Jesus assembled with the believers in the upper room as recorded in Acts 1 (cf. Acts 1:14).

47 Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”

This verse is quite similar to verse 46 but it is not found in the older manuscripts. It is noteworthy that there is no indication that Christ's family did ever manage to talk with Him on this occasion. Jesus in effect put them in their place.

They sought to “straighten Him out” but He as the Lord showed His Lordship authority over them. They were still thinking in physical terms as the earthly brother who had been around the home for 30 years. Jesus was now functioning as Messiah Lord and they need to realize this – and eventually they did.

48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”

On the face of it this question in isolation comes off as either insulting or insane? Obviously, Jesus did know who His physical mother was and who His half-brothers were. The question is rhetorical as Jesus is wanting to make a spiritual point. Jesus is putting the emphasis on spiritual family at this point and not on physical family.

It's not that Jesus didn't care about His physical family. His last instructions from the cross involved the ongoing care for His mother (cf. Jn. 19:26-27). And through His gracious intervention His brothers also came to believe in Him as already noted. Again, Jesus is using this occasion to emphasize that the most important issue is having a spiritual relationship with Him – and not a physical one.

49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!”

In the surrounding context Jesus talks about who is His mother, brother, and sister but nothing is said about “father”. Perhaps the reason for this is because spiritually speaking, reference to “Father” is to be reserved for the heavenly Father alone.

Slide # 12

Matthew 23:9 (NKJV)

9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

If you take the Bible seriously you will only use the spiritual title “Father” for Father God Who is in heaven. If you take Christ’s words seriously this title is to be reserved for God the Father alone.

In a physical sense the Bible does speak of men as being earthly fathers and Paul did use it in the sense of a small “f” in speaking of his relationship to people he had led to the Lord (cf. 1 Cor. 4:15) or in the sense of forefathers (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1). However, in the authoritative sense of spiritual Father only God is to be referenced in this manner.

Note those who are here called “*disciples*” meaning believing/learning followers of Christ are said to be part of Christ’s spiritual family. We are not saved by following, but true believers are true followers of Christ. The following is the fruit of true faith.

Slide # 13

John 10:26–28 (NKJV)

26 But you do not believe, [*the issue*] because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

27 My sheep hear My voice, [*respond in faith*] and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Easy believism says you can be a true believer without being a follower of Christ, but Jesus never said that. To have that kind of theology you have to read verses on BELIEVE in isolation ignoring the greater context of the Scriptures.

We are saved by faith alone, but it must be the right kind of faith. A true saving faith is a heart-changing/life changing kind of faith which proceeds to follow Christ – not perfectly but certainly. As the Reformers said, “*We are justified by faith alone but the faith that justifies does not remain alone.*”

Slide # 14

“It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone.” – John Calvin

And to show you all the more that it is only true disciples (that is true followers) who are Christ’s spiritual family Jesus went on to clarify the issue in verse 50.

50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

Note the connection between “disciples” in verse 49 and “does the will of My Father” in verse 50. That is a direct parallel.

Slide # 15

Matthew 12:49–50 (NKJV)

49 And He stretched out His hand toward His **disciples** and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!

50 For **whoever does the will of My Father** in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

A disciple is one who does the will of the Father and therefore it is disciples who are truly part of Christ’s spiritual family (cf. Jn. 8:31-32).

This is consistent with and builds on the emphasis seen at the climax of the Sermon on the Mount in Matt. 7:21-23.

Slide # 16**Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)**

21 “Not everyone who **says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’** shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will of My Father** in heaven.

22 Many will **say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord,** have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who **practice** lawlessness!’

Jesus made the issue His LORDSHIP. Those that truly know Him as Lord seek to do the will of the Father thereby indicating that they really do know Him as Lord. In contrast are mere talkers. They say, “Lord, Lord” but it doesn’t affect their practice because it is not real in their hearts.

Matthew chapter 12 signals a major transition in the ministry of Christ. Whereas earlier the emphasis had been on reaching out to the country as a whole – now the emphasis is more on individuals – whosoever will come. Whereas earlier the emphasis was on presenting the kingdom on the condition of repentance, now the emphasis will become the kingdom is delayed and Christ is going to the cross.

Of course, in the sovereign plan of God He knew where it was going all along – but He allowed it to unfold as it did for His sovereign purposes which all bring glory to Him.

But note the emphasis here in Matt. 12:50 on “***whoever***” does the will of My Father. This is a universal appeal.

Slide # 17**John 1:11–12 (NKJV)**

11 He came to His own, and His own **did not receive Him.**

12 But **as many as received Him,** to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe** in His name:

Whosoever will can come and be a part of Christ’s family – but one does have to receive Christ by believing in His name – which is to say His person. And who is His person? He is Lord and Savior!

The whoever indicates the universality of the invitation. No one who believes is excluded. And, on the other hand, not one who does not believe will be included. – **John MacArthur**

Doing the will of the Father STARTS with believing on the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior.

Slide # 18

John 6:29 (NKJV)

29 Jesus answered and said to them, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”**

Jesus in effect told them that what God wants them to DO is to believe in Him. They wanted to know about “works” but Jesus said “believe”. This is **“the work”** (so to speak) that God wants them to do.

This is in the same vein as when the Philippian jailer said, **“What must I do to be saved?”** And the response came back, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”** What must you DO? You must believe! The will of the Father first and foremost is that people believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Once this takes place then a progressive sanctification begins to work its way out in the life to where ones whole life is now colored in a whole new way. Again, the issue of doing the will of the Father is not one of perfection but it is one of direction.

Slide # 19

John 5:28–29 (NKJV)

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 and come forth—those who have **done good, to the resurrection of life**, and those who have **done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation**.

Normally we break the whole of humanity into the two categories of believers and unbelievers and that is right. But here Jesus broke it into the two categories of those who do good and those who do evil. And the point is true faith changes the entire trajectory of a person’s life – so much so that true believers are generally characterized as those who do good – or as Jesus put it in Matt. 12:50 **“does the will of My Father”**.

Just to be clear we are not saved by doing good or by good works of any kind, for that would contradict GRACE (Eph. 2:8-9). However, if we are saved the identifying fruit or the evidence in the believer's life will be that we desire to do the will of the Father.

Our study this morning presents a great contrast: On the one hand we have mere empty reformation. On the other hand, we have a life changing relationship with Jesus that results in us being a member of His spiritual family. The first represents a works salvation that cannot save. The second represents true saving faith.

The Jews were BIG on reformation. There was religious reformation, moral reformation, self-reformation, legalistic reformation, social reformation. In one sense the whole of Judaism had become about mere reformation.

Slide # 20

Matthew 23:15 (NKJV)

15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."

Colossians talks about things that indeed "have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion" (Col 2:23).

By way of application there are lots of "reformation" programs today. We have 7 steps, 12 steps, we have meditation, and all manner of various self-help disciplinary plans. And many of these may in fact bring a measure of positive change in the person's physical life. After all you can to a point train the flesh to behave outwardly, but what you can't do is internally change a person's spiritual nature. Only God can do this. Only the gospel can fundamentally change a person spiritually.

In Romans 1-3 Paul at great length shows that the pagan, the moralist, and the religionist are all equally under condemnation. The moralist might think he has a leg up on the pagan but both are under condemnation. The religionist might think he has a leg up on the pagan and the moralist, but he too is under the same condemnation.

And here is Paul's conclusion:

Slide # 21

Romans 3:22–23 (NKJV)

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Self-reformation always comes short. At funerals they will often say, “He was a good person” – but the question is HOW GOOD? It doesn’t matter how reformed a person may be they still come far short of God’s glory standard. Isa. 64:6 says, “all our righteousness are like filthy rags”.

Our works can never save us in part or in whole. Any and all efforts of mere reformation can never save us in part or in whole. We need Jesus. We need a life changing faith relationship with Jesus. This is ultimately the only thing that will really change us spiritually for time and eternity.

On the night of April 14-15 (1912), the Titanic set sail from Southampton England for New York. The manufacturers of the boat said it was UNSINKABLE. It was HUGE and was called a "floating city". At the time it was the world's largest man-made moveable object. She set sail that fateful night with more than 2300 passengers. Several passengers wrote in their diaries that they had overheard people claim that "***even God couldn't sink this ship!***" So with human EGO as big as the ship the Titanic launched its maiden voyage. In keeping with human EGO, the owners wanted to set a record pace in crossing the Atlantic so caution was thrown to the wind as the ship sped through the icy waters. But then at 11:40 p.m. the ship hit an iceberg and two hours and 40 minutes later the Titanic sank into a watery grave.

With the ship sinking what should the passengers have done? Rearrange the furniture in a way that would make them feel better about their situation? Such reformation would change nothing ultimately. No, what was needed was to abandon the entire ship for a whole new relationship with a life-boat. Only getting on a life-boat could they be saved.

And so it is with Jesus! Reformation never changes anyone’s destiny – it merely “rearranges the furniture” of one’s life. What is needed is true faith in Jesus Who alone is the Savior! When we come to Him in true repentance and faith our lives are changed, our eternal destiny is altered.

So you want to change your life? The real issue is this: Has Jesus changed you from the inside out? Only a saving faith in Christ as Lord and Savior can do that.

We sing an old song written in 1878 titled: “***Are You Washed in the Blood?***” In fact, I like it so well I would like it sung at my funeral. The first line of the song says, “***Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?***” And not taking anything away from that line I want to add this one: “***Have you been to Jesus for the changing power?***”

That is the ultimate issue! In the end only the blood of Jesus can cleanse and only the living Lord can truly change a person spiritually from the inside out. It’s called being born again!

John 1:12–13 (NKJV)

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe** in His name:

13 who were **born**, not of blood, **nor of the will** of the flesh, nor of **the will of man**, but of God.

We can’t will ourselves to be born again. This is the supernatural work of God in the hearts of those who believe. We believe and we are supernaturally born of God. This is God’s doing. This is CHANGE brought about by God alone!

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing/changing power?

He invites, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Mt. 11:28)

Cease from all self-effort and come to Jesus and find rest in Him! Only this will put you into God’s eternal spiritual family!

It’s not about personal Reformation – it’s all about a personal Relationship with God through saving faith in Jesus Christ that forever changes your life.

Come to Jesus! Jesus ALONE is truly in the life-changing business!
Come to Him!