

Word notes Sunday 22/02/09 Tony Hodge
“In my Father’s House”

Summary

Jesus was (and is) Father God’s message to us all. We’ve all heard the saying “like father like son” and it’s true for Jesus and his Heavenly Father. Tony shared about his dad’s shed, it’s humble construction and the things his dad did there, that they did together and that Tony then did there alone. If he wasn’t in the house Tony’s Mum should have known to look for him in the shed.

Jesus spoke many times about his Father, both directly and in parable, he needed to do this so that all of us would get to know Father God not from distorted images of our own Fathers but from the one true image – Jesus. Jesus and the Father are one, he only did what he saw the Father doing. Is our image of Father God austere, vengeful, angry, wrathful, or loving, kind, caring, generous and compassionate? IS Father God an authority figure or a Daddy?

Tony’s Dad had a shed – Jesus Dad (Abba, Father) has a house of many mansions and Jesus has gone to prepare a place for each of us who will believe.

Application

All of us, male and female, by new birth are children and heirs of Father God through Jesus (Romans 8:16-17) – we too can call Father God “Abba” (Rom 8:15, Gal 4:6).

1, Share briefly on the images that come to mind from your experience when you hear the word “Daddy”.

2, My Dad had a shed, my Heavenly Father has a house of many mansions. Share how your earthly parenting reflects the character of a Heavenly Father.

2, Where in the Gospels is it recorded that Jesus calls Father God “Abba” rather than “Heavenly Father”? (Ans- Mark 14:36). Compare the context of this with Paul’s writings in Rom 8:15 and Gal 4:6 what do you read into these passages?

3, “Honour your father and mother” is commandment number.....? Is this ranking important - what comes before an after?

How did Jesus honour his Dad? How do you honour your father and mother? How if they were not fully up to God’s standard (clue – is any of us?).

Witness:

What vision does the cell have for outreach? Discuss with the cell and seek to state some realistic goals that you can make yourselves accountable to.