

So what...

How did you come to faith?

What part in that process did words play?

Did faith come by hearing? Can you read God's Word and not hear it

The message Jesus preached was, 'Repent, the Kingdom of God is near'

What do you think it means to repent?

Do you repent once? OR more often...

What connection is there between the nearness of the Kingdom of God and the need to repent?

Do you believe Jesus' words have power?

What do you understand by this? Cf. Hebrews 4.12

What significance is there in the fact that Jesus' words seem to have the same power as the words spoken in Genesis 1?

The message in words is more than what Jesus said; it includes the words written about him

How do you think Jesus' death and resurrection challenges our instinctive understanding of the rule of God and of power generally?

What might repentance [changing our minds] entail for followers of this king?

Read Revelation 10.9 and Ezekiel 3.1-2

What does it mean to read God's word and eat it?

Think about digesting God's word alongside John's words, 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us'

When you read God's Word does it become flesh in your living?

Ask God's Holy Spirit to transform you as you continue to hear his message in words and continue to eat his book...

Sunday January 20th 2008

The Message in...

WORDS

to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

Devoted to Christ, his people, his mission

The main points again...

The Message in words:

Have you **heard** the news?

‘...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.’ -

Romans 10.17

What is the ‘word of Christ’ which leads to our faith?

The words of Jesus?

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." -

Matthew 4.17

More than information- transformation

Invitation to repent- to change to be ready for the rule of God

Authoritative word of Jesus

The power of creation- words that do things- present in Christ

You have the words of eternal life. - John 6.68

The words about Jesus as well as the words of Jesus

...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10.9

Summoned to live under this King’s rule

What we do with the Message in Words?

God speaks to us- we are changed

God speaks through us- to bring change

Eating the message

So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." - Revelation 10.9

Eating a book takes it all in, assimilating it into the tissues of our lives. Readers become what they read. If Holy Scripture is to be something other than mere gossip about God, it must be internalised... Words- spoken and listened to, written and read- are intended to do something in us; give health and wholeness, vitality and holiness, wisdom and hope. Yes, eat this book.

- Eugene Peterson, *Eat this Book*

Eat - Go - Speak... See Ezekiel 3.1-2

Digesting Sweet and Sour

Incarnation...Being the message in words

‘The Word became flesh...’

"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,’

- Romans 10.8