Lesson 3

Online Bible Study “Covenant”

Lessons 1-7 “Creating”

Lesson 3: “God’s Kingdom – Jesus reveals instructions for a new covenant community”

Matthew and Mark

When our new way of life is at odds with the prevailing kingdoms of this world, we look for a Teacher who has the authority over these kingdoms to reshape our lives by example.

Readings:

Day 1: Mark 1-4 – God’s Kingdom is near

Day 2: Mark 12-14 – God’s kingdom is not here yet

Day 3: Matthew 4-7 – New instruction for a new kingdom

Day 4: Matthew 11-13 – New way of life

Day 5: Jesus is the new Teacher

Questions:

Matthew 9:18-33 – Jesus as deliverer

One of the government officials installed by the Roman Empire comes to Jesus because his daughter has just died. On the way to see the dead child, a woman with chronic bleeding stops Jesus in mid-step.

1. What kind of authority does the ruler grant to Jesus? How does the ruler expect Jesus to apply his authority? What reaction would the woman expect from touching Jesus, a male, in her society?
2. By raising a child from the dead and healing a woman with chronic bleeding, what is Matthew’s Gospel saying about people with the lowest status in their community? What does this episode say to the rulers of his day about Jesus’ authority? What does this kind of authority mean to rulers in our society?
3. How does Jesus react when he is mocked by people who are mourning the death of the child? What did Jesus mean when he said that the child was not dead?
4. The woman touched Jesus, and Jesus touched the child and then the blind men. What meaning do you perceive in these acts of touching a person who desperately needs help?
5. The words *faith* and *believe* are used in these healing stories. How would you define these words with examples from your spiritual experience? If you believe or have faith, will Jesus heal you?