

Living the Kingdom Life - Part 4 The Shema Prayer

“Shema Israel, Adonai elohenu, Adonai echad.”

(Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.)

In the message this past Sunday we focused on the fact that Jesus was Jewish. Discuss how learning about Jesus in the wrong context can distort our learning about of who Jesus really was, what He said, and how He behaved?

There was a saying in Jesus’ day that said, ***“You should learn from a rabbi by covering yourself in his dust.”*** Think about how closely you are presently following Jesus. What are some ways that we all can follow him more closely?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 a few times. Allow the Word of God to speak to you. Parents specifically: Discuss verse 7. How often do you take the time to read and study Scripture with your children?

Read Mark 12:28-31 out loud.

The Hebrew word, **“shema”** is the word for hear, but it also the word for listen and obey. **(Hear, O Israel...)** Many times a Hebrew word would carry with it a double-meaning. This is why Jesus said so many times, ***“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”*** In Exodus 24:7 after Moses recites the covenant to the people, they respond with, ***“We will do everything the Lord has said; we will “shema.” (obey).***

Understanding the word, **“shema”** is important to understanding the importance of this prayer that Jesus states is the greatest commandment. Discuss the importance of not just hearing the word, but also obeying. Shema is a call to hear as well as a call to action.

Read James 1:22-25 out loud. In this passage, James, the brother of Jesus, compares hearing and not doing to someone looking in a mirror, seeing what needs to be fixed, but then walking away and doing nothing about it. Think about some ways that we do this. Take some time this week to write down some things that we have perhaps ignored about our behavior when looking into the perfect law of liberty, and then spend some time in repentance and prayer over these things.