



14 June 2014

Discussion Questions

“Second-Hand Jesus” The Unrighteous Cry”

“The Unrighteous Cry”

1. What are some common beliefs/ideas about prayer? (ex: Who told you that you had to close your eyes?) Where did these beliefs or practices come from?
2. Does the form of words matter in prayer? Can you pray without words?
3. Martin Luther said “Sometimes the curses of the godless sound better than the hallelujahs of the pious.” Do you agree or disagree?
4. Can you be praying without knowing that you are praying?
5. How much do you need to know about God to pray? Anything?
6. Who is most active in prayer: the prayer or God?
7. Are some prayers unacceptable to God? What sort of prayers?
8. In your own words, how would you now define what it means to be “righteous”?

“Second-Hand Jesus”

9. What view of Jesus would someone get from looking at secular society alone? For example, Jesus is often depicted as white.
10. What view of Jesus would someone get from the Seventh-day Adventist Church?
10. Is it possible to achieve anything other than ‘second-hand’ knowledge of Jesus?
11. How do we explain when people claiming to have a ‘first-hand’ knowledge of Jesus through a personal relationship with Him significantly differ from each other on various issues?
12. What practical steps can be taken to develop a ‘first-hand’ experience of Jesus or to better test the ‘second-hand’ knowledge of Jesus we have been given?
13. Does God treat those that have a relationship with Him differently? Is this the same as asking whether God treats the wicked differently to the righteous?
14. What is one practical step we can take to enhance our prayer life this coming week?

* Bonus Questions:

Does God change His mind and if so, in what circumstances? How does this fit in with the idea of a God who knows everything and where it is not possible for a human interaction to shed light on something God hadn’t thought of or considered?

Is it possible for mercy and justice to co-exist? How do we reconcile a God that is both merciful and just?