RE LESSON 9 WEEK 11

LO: To be able to explain how Nelson Mandela lived a life of faith in God.

HOM: Thinking with clarity and precision.

**INTRO AND BACKGROUND.**

Nelson Mandela, affectionately known as ‘Madiba’, to the people of South Africa and during conversations with other Africa country leaders would also be referred to at points in conversation as Madiba, is famously quoted as having said,

**"until I changed myself, I could not change others".**

This expression is a deeply Christian ideal, that there is a need for **internal revival** before one can lead others to their own change. Jesus taught us this, many times, throughout his ministry. He taught us how to pray, with our whole hearts and the words we should use. He taught us how to fast and how to be humble in going about doing this. He ministered how we should behave so that we recognise the Kingdom of God and be ready to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. He taught us how to love our neighbour as well as ourselves.

When Nelson Mandela wrote his now incredibly famous book ‘The Long Walk to Freedom’, he talked of his early experiences with Christianity, praising its engagements with the society around him. He is quoted in this book as having said:

**"The Church was as concerned with this world as the next: I saw that virtually all of the achievements of Africans seemed to have come about through the missionary work of the Church."**

From your research in the last task, you may have found out that Nelson Mandela studied in an elite black university in Alice, Eastern Cape, called the University of Fort Hare. Whilst studying there Mandela became a member of the Students Christian Association and taught Bible classes on Sundays in nearby villages.

So even whilst studying Nelson Mandela took the time to explore and discuss the word of God with people who were sometimes poorer than himself. This shows his commitment in spreading the word of God in order for everyone to recognise God’s love for us all because we were all created in his image and to spread the Word of God, so that people could understand how to live their lives as God wanted, so that they will be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

During his imprisonment on Robben Island, he continued to attend Sunday services, but also took classes on Islam, in what he called "the University of Robben Island". How great was this. It is the same as when we complete our study of Islam. Through listening and learning we develop a better understanding, and a unique level of respect for all mankind.

Imagine whilst in prison Nelson Mandela also learnt to speak Afrikaans, the language of the white South Africans, in the hope that he could appeal to them about his cause in their own language. This is a little bit like the events of the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit entered the room and touched the disciples, making them able to speak in the languages of all the different people in the village at the time, so that they were able to hear and understand the word of God in their own ‘ mother tongue’.

In 1994 Nelson Mandela attended and gave a touching speech at a Christian’s Easter conference that would once again unite the people in South Africa and help them to recognise how important the events in Jesus life were to how we live our lives each day as Christians with our immediate and wider community.

He said:

**The Good News borne by our risen Messiah who chose not one race, who chose not one country, who chose not one language, who chose not one tribe, who chose all of humankind!**

**"Each Easter marks the rebirth of our faith. It marks the victory of our risen Saviour over the torture of the cross and the grave.**

**"Our Messiah, who came to us in the form of a mortal man, but who by his suffering and crucifixion attained immortality.**

**"Our Messiah, born like an outcast in a stable, and executed like criminal on the cross.**

**"Our Messiah, whose life bears testimony to the truth that there is no shame in poverty: Those who should be ashamed are they who impoverish others.**

**"Whose life testifies to the truth that there is no shame in being persecuted: Those who should be ashamed are they who persecute others.**

**"Whose life proclaims the truth that there is no shame in being conquered: Those who should be ashamed are they who conquer others.**

**"Whose life testifies to the truth that there is no shame in being dispossessed: Those who should be ashamed are they who dispossess others.**

**"Whose life testifies to the truth that there is no shame in being oppressed: Those who should be ashamed are they who oppress others."**

He later went on to say when he addressed the 8th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1998.

**"You have to have been in an apartheid prison in South Africa to appreciate the further importance of the church," he told the Assembly.**

**"They tried to isolate us completely from the outside. Our relatives could see us only once every six months. The link was religious organisations, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and members of the Jewish faith. They were the faithful who inspired us."**

Powerful words from a great man who lead his people and his country to change in a peaceful and forgiving way.

TASKS

**So, you have started off by having a lot to read.** In this lesson you have a few tasks to complete. Take your time, so that you produce the best pieces of work that you can.

**TASK 1**

You will need to complete the Y Chart below. Use bullet points as you write each sentence to help answer the question.

**NELSON MANDELA Y CHART**

|  |
| --- |
| **What did Nelson Mandela do? Describe an action: What he did? When he did it? Where he did it and for whom?****What does this action show about what Nelson Mandela believed about God?****What does this show about what Nelson Mandela believed about people?** |

**TASK 2**

**You now need to go back and find the Y chart that you completed on Pope Francis. This work was completed in the topic From Easter to Pentecost.**

Place them side by side and review what you recorded under the questions asked about each man.

As you compare these two men, I want you to keep these questions at the front of your mind and try to answer them as you make your comparison.

FOCUS QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS.

Compare the actions and motivations of the two men.

o Draw your conclusions and then record them in the grid below

o Do the actions of Pope Francis bring about God’s kingdom?

o Did Nelson Mandela’s actions bring about God’s kingdom?

**TITLE: Have the actions of Pope Francis & Nelson Mandela bought about God’s kingdom?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **POPE FRANCIS** | **NELSON MANDELA** |
| **How have the actions of Pope Francis brought about the kingdom of God? Yes/No and Why?** | **How have the actions of Nelson Mandela brought about the kingdom of God? Yes/No and Why?** |
|  |  |
| **If building the kingdom is like planting a mustard seed, what ‘seeds’ did they plant?** |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**TASK 3**

I now want you to review your work over this unit. It is hoped that through your learning in this unit you will have bee able to reflect and developed related spiritual outcomes that are topic specific. These are

**Spiritual Outcomes:**

It is hoped that pupils will develop:

* A sense of the relationship between learning about faith and living faith-filled lives
* Respect for those who actively seek the kingdom of God
* A commitment to action for the kingdom of God
* An ability to wonder about questions that are difficult to answer
* Reflectiveness in prayer

Our understanding of the bible though parables that Jesus spoke and other ways that he ministered, develop a greater commitment to our faith because we believe in and want to behave in a way that follows his teachings.

You have studied two such great men. One being the Leader of our Catholic Church and the other being once the Leader of the country of South Africa.

Both men were and have been called to lead in different ways. Their faith made both of them very strong men and the words that they spoke, would command justice because their words mirrored the teachings and actions which Jesus asked us to follow.

It meant that these two men woke up every day and turned to God, calling upon His help as they carried out their work each day, calling upon other human beings to heed the word of God and follow it through.

Your task is to write a letter to a friend explaining what you have learnt about these two powerful men and how their actions have developed a greater understanding in you about living a faith filled life, in order to experience the Kingdom of Heaven. Use examples from the lives lived by these men, examples and explanations learnt from parables explored and provide evidence of what you would do.

Start your letter below and good luck.

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