

04242022 Baptism Final....Every culture or way of life, has similar aspirations whether it is religious or not...whether it is individualized or dependent upon government institutions... every culture seeks justice and liberty and prosperity... some seek it for all, some for themselves... but Jesus' words are radically different they speak of establishing a culture like no other...

Jesus was revolutionary then and he is now...the words he speaks...go against the grain of culture...in Jesus day the religious and ethnic culture he was a part of were waiting for a messiah...one sent from heaven to free them from the oppression of the Roman occupying army and to loose them from the influence and immorality of the Greek culture..... to reestablish a Kingdom where the religious and national Jews would reign ...the people move from being the weak and oppressed to strong and powerful...

We often have similar aspirations...we simply hope to do it ourselves take care of number one! or have the government provide...

Jesus' words are radically different they speak of establishing a culture like no other...

- **The kingdom of God is a kingdom that is established in a person....it is a kingdom made up of people who have given the Kingship of their lives to Jesus...it is an inside Job.. that will effect everything outside..**

ESV LK 17:20 ²⁰ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

or within you

- **That the king of this Heavenly Kingdom has come down from this Kingdom to gather all those who will become part of his eternal kingdom... It always begins with the call...**

NLT Luke 6: 12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: 14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 15 and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

- **When Jesus called the original twelve ...there were probably hundreds to choose from... He has his reasons...we must trust his character though we know not his reasoning! They must have been surprised**
- **But out of that twelve and there was one who appeared to be on the team...but was not**
- **he picks no one of any repute and establishes his spiritual religious kingdom with not one ...religious or outward appearing spiritual person...**
- **second...he hands picks his own traitor...right off the bat he does something we would never intentionally do...but he did it with full intention... no wonder he spent much time in prayer...**
- **moving on...he chose the twelve to distinguish them from the broader group of his disciples.. the future seventy and the crowd...but all disciples are chosen...we have some chosen today...**
- **Now Jesus has chosen the first representatives of this Kingdom...so now he shares with them the blessings of belonging to His Kingdom... shared with us also**

NLT Luke 6:17 And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, 18 who came to hear him

and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

- **Imagine his newly appointed apostles...probably pretty confused about what that even means...and the other many disciples sitting around Jesus looking at him and listening to him...common men and women...**

A Kingdom is created at the top but sustained from the bottom.... The twelve Apostles. all the other disciples ...will be used to help " People"

- **And today we examine the first principle of this kingdom...any can enter :**

LK 6: ²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Imagine his newly appointed apostles...probably pretty confused about what all that even means...and the other many disciples sitting around Jesus looking at him and listening to him...common men and women... This is radically different.

What are his disciples thinking...In their culture you are blessed if you are Roman...or a Roman with wealth..or wealthy period...or a Jew who who is wealthy ...or a religious leader is is both wealthy and right with God...

- ****And then the first thing Jesus wants them to know is that in his Kingdom ...he blesses people adds value...by including those normally left out..... be blesses the marginalized..... but only those who are open to receive the blessing... be blesses the broken...this Kingdom will grow and be sustained by those on the bottom!!!...**
- **Jesus is not speaking about earthly poverty ...no where in scripture does God state starvation, homelessness or being penniless is a blessing...in fact the alleviation of such conditions is spoken of as a moral mandate...**

- **Yours and mine earthly nature is poverty stricken... is in a slow but continual state of decaying! or aging until death... my body is poverty stricken therefore no matter how much wealth I have...I leave it!**
- **So from a heavenly kingdom perspective in the natural poverty stricken ... and in the spiritual everyone is poverty stricken by sin and its penalty of death..**

NLT Rom 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

- **When we see ourselves correctly, we become kingdom-fit.**
- **Bless are those ...it is advantageous to those who acknowledge...they are in deep need...**
- **people are in a real sense two time losers...in the natural human mortality rate is at 100% and we are powerless over it!**
- **and spiritual losers...under wrath and separated from God...**
- **Once people understand this they have no exaggerated sense of their own importance... Remember he is speaking to his disciples...and telling them ... that it is acceptable, even desirable, to understand you are spiritually and Physically impoverished.**
- **But the Kingdom you now belong too... changes everything!!**

++++There is pie in the sky....there is a better place...the best is yet to come...so keep your focus right

NIV 2CO 4: ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Everything we see is temporary (brief, passing, transitory, impermanent, momentary)

- And what you don't see is eternal (perpetual, endless, ceaseless, everlasting, never ending)
- So we live with a new purpose...we make decisions with Kingdom purpose...
- **You see People who follow Jesus ... know the best is yet to come...**
- Their outlook on the world is eternal...and they are truly blessed to be chosen and a part of it...
- They expect God to do what he says
- They wait patiently on the Lord to do it
- They live with purpose, act with purpose and make choices on purpose...the blessed become a blessing!

A new Kingdom and a new culture! I am in....and so we are joined by those getting Baptized today... Baptism is the outward declaration that they are citizens of a new kingdom...The Kingdom of God...And Baptism is their citizenship papers....

NLT Matt 28: 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[b] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- **you go from powerless in the spiritual realm to blessed with the authority of Christ!**
- **you were separated from God now God is our Father!**
- **you go from separation from Christ to baptized into Christ empowered with the Holy Spirit**
- **you go from separation to Disciple... from ignorant of the things of God to a disciple learning the ways of God**

- **you go from rebellion to obedience...cursed to blessed!**
- **and you prosper in every way**

today is a great day for those being Baptized! it is a reminder for those of us who have been Baptized of who we are...and an encouragment fro those who have not to get in!

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