

## The Kingdom of God – Notes

Before it all began, Jesus was. All things were made by Him, through Him and for Him. Today is still God's plan A. We are not evolving and God is working out how to win us over to Him. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day vegetation came into existence and grew. The stars and their starlight were not put in place until the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Before any of this God knew today would be like it is today. The stars put in place told of Jesus birth, death and resurrection as a witness to God's plan not changing. This was written hundreds of years before these events took place.

The Kingdom of heaven is at hand... A kingdom has to do with territory, a place that is owned, control is established through the dominion and authority of a ruler. Today, the kingdom is in us and with us everywhere we go. The territory of God's kingdom is our heart submitted to Jesus as our Lord. This is the kingdom foretold of in the Book of Daniel; the rock that destroyed the statue of the different kingdoms of which Babylon was the greatest. This rock representing the kingdom of God and Jesus would continue to grow and overtake every other kingdom on earth.

Jesus never preached, taught on or presented the idea of salvation, to be saved so we won't go to hell as the Church does today. First, He had not died, resurrected and established the new covenant when He was doing His ministry on earth. This did not seem to stop Him or diminish what he came to accomplish on the earth. All Jesus teachings revolve around the kingdom of God. The kingdom of heaven is like...

John 18...

Jesus being questioned by Pilate states,

*"Yes, you are right in saying I am a king. My kingdom is not of this world... But now my kingdom is from another place."*

*"For this reason I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*

John 3...

*God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but to save it.*

*I tell you the truth; no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.*

*I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I, Jesus have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?*

The kingdom of heaven is at hand, meaning it is within reach. Jesus teaches in parables to His disciples. He describes what He knows as familiar and is the Author of in heaven always comparing with what the people are familiar with, the world and its ways.

Consider trying to describe an apple to someone who can only hear. They cannot smell, touch, taste or see an apple. How would you be able to describe the sweet smell? The rich color of the skin? How it is hard to bite, crunchy to chew and yet is soft, juicy and sweet to eat? Would you be able to connect with this person to describe the richness of your experience so that they get it?

\*Before Jesus death atonement for sin had not happened. In His teachings He states, narrow is the door and the only way in is through Him. He is the Good Shepherd. All who do not enter through the gate enter as a thief and a robber. Jesus takes away all of the barriers between us and God. He buys us back with His life: atoning for our sin; exchanging the death in us for life.

\*God is everywhere and there is nowhere we can go that God isn't already there. Our new spirit and new heart are like a radio receiver that allows us to tune in to God. He is with us, talking with us, encouraging, enabling and empowering us constantly. Even though we cannot see Him, we can hear His voice and receive His grace for us moment by moment freshly given every day.

\* The Holy Spirit, God in us, is our seal and guarantee that God is doing His work in us and through us and that He will complete His good work in each and every one of us. The Holy Spirit is our conduit to all 3 persons of God and our gives us the ability to actually live, having heaven on earth today, in this lifetime. This means now!

## The way we see...

There is no separation from the physical and the spiritual. What we do in the physical has an effect on the spiritual. What we do in the spiritual has an effect on the physical. What if, in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve could see both the physical and the spiritual through their eyes; being able to operate with all of their senses on both planes of existence?

Adam and Eve were connected completely with God as their Source for Life. Their emotions, their perception of their surroundings, their very being was never disconnected from The One who had breathed in Adam the breath of life, giving us a human soul. When eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they disconnected their souls from God as their Source. Their action transferred their source for life to become knowledge.

When the presence of God, His glory, was separated from Adam and Eve this affected all of creation. Everything was changed, not just Adam and Eve. Knowledge became their source, but knowledge has no power of its own. The knowledge of evil that we recognize is not able to be changed with our knowledge of good. This is humanism; to believe if we just know enough about being good we won't do bad things anymore.

Knowledge is not a power source allowing good to vanquish evil. In order life to overcome death we have to have revelation from the Source of life. Unless we have revelation from God's perspective we only have our interpretation and finite understanding for how to deal with evil. This is taking our convictions based on our experiences and making them other's obligation and responsibility to keep. This is known as *legalism* which is what the Pharisees put upon people.

Returning to our Source through knowledge is still staying disconnected from our true Source. This is the believers today who know of Jesus instead of knowing Jesus in person. I can do it... I just need to know more about how to make better choices.

People filled with life take life with them everywhere they go. Life is not about the absence of evil and the presence of good. Filled with life, we carry the presence of God with us and in us.

Both good and evil exist in the same time and same place since the Garden of Eden. Life establishes dominion over death. Subdue the earth and rule it is the dominion and authority God gave Adam. As God's adopted children we are reconciling all of creation back to our Perfect Father through what Jesus has done for us with the power of the Holy Spirit within each of us.

The beauty of the kingdom is that it does not require our ability to do in order to be reconnected to our Source for Life. We are not doing in our own strength, understanding and ability, our knowledge to be good. Doing life becomes an extension of our relationship, being connected to our Source. This is what God calls good from His point of view.

God as our Source is Him to us, in us and through us. The Rivers of Living Water, Jesus told the woman at the well about. Jesus is not a distant reality to be achieved, attained or to become qualified to be a part of Him. Our reality is that Jesus is at hand, I am with you and in you as your Source to participate with you in every area of life. Let us do this together.

We no longer have to strive to be enough, attaining, learning, and achieving enough to become acceptable in order to fill the God shaped hole in our heart and soul. We return to our Source and God fills the hole in us.

We repent: We are asking God to give us revelation for how to do this thing called life. We are changing our thinking in order to go a different direction. To make the choice to turn is up to each of us, our part. To have a repentant heart is God's part. This is why revelation is such a big part of changing our beliefs. Knowledge alone does not get us there for living life in the kingdom of God today.

We receive: God gives us grace to be in this journey of discovery as we let go of what we thought we knew and replace our understanding, seeing through a glass darkly, with being connected and truly belonging our Source for Life, our God and Creator; our best Friend as we do this thing called life for all eternity.

We accept: We are not just set free from bondage and being controlled by what wants to kill us. We are being restored to what God gave us through Adam, dominion and authority over the earth. We are being restored one person, one family at a time. Our passions are now enablers for accomplishing our purpose united with God's purpose for man on the earth. We are daily growing in our ability to operate with a kingdom mindset as we live and do life without shame, condemnation or guilt.

The kingdom of God has come is not up to us to fulfill. The kingdom is what we receive and pour out around us as an extension of the Living water flowing from us. We receive and God fulfills. Jesus came to serve. To give us what we cannot do on our own. The kingdom today is about the power of God expressed to us, in us and through us. Jesus said, you will do greater things than I. My authority I give to you that you will do my Fathers will and have much fruit.

What we seek first organizes our day. When we seek first the kingdom of God are we seeking His presence or our understanding of what good is?

What do you hear God saying to you today?