

Faith for the Present
“Designing Life Within the New Kingdom of God”
Sunday, September 13, 2020

- * As we continue our study in The Sermon on the Mount, let's remember that we are looking at a brand new way to live!
- * Remember what God told Isaiah:

Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.

- * We need to realize that our “default thinking” and our “default ways of living” are not God's ways!
- * This is why our minds have to be renewed and why His ways have to be learned!
- * Let's continue our journey into this “strange new world” of God's ways of living!

Matthew 6:24-34 (NLT)

24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. 25 “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 28 “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow,

he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? 31 “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. 34 “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

I. All throughout the Gospels we see Jesus “*preaching the Kingdom of God!*” What does this really mean?

A. The first time we see this mentioned by Jesus is in:

Matthew 4:17 (NIV)

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matthew 4:17 (Phillips)

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “You must change your hearts—for the kingdom of Heaven has arrived.”

Matthew 4:17 (AMP)

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

1. Do we actually understand what Jesus is saying here?
2. The broad or general statement is, “You are going to have to change because God is inaugurating and new way to live!”
3. That is the essence of what this entire Sermon

on the Mount is all about!!! CHANGE!

- B. Remember, Jesus said our righteousness wasn't about the control of our behavior through keeping the law (the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees) but rather the promise of a new and sensitive heart to the Lord!

Isaiah 9:2,4,6-7 (NLT)

2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

4 For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.

6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

1. This scripture that contains many Messianic promises reveals to us this awesome new life in The Kingdom!
2. We have walked in darkness since The Fall of Man! Not knowing truly how to live!
3. God's Son and His light has shone and broke the yoke of slavery to sin from our lives! We do not have to live according to the Fallen World any longer!
4. *There is a new "governing way to live" and the very Son of God Himself has both shone by example how to live the life of The Kingdom as well as provided the ability by His Spirit to empower us to live it!*

II. Our challenge is *do we even accept that there is an alternative way of life* other than life according to this world?

1 John 2:15-16 (NLT)

15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

A. Is this “philosophical thinking” or is it “literal instruction?”

1. Really meditate on what John is saying here!
2. Remember Jesus’ sayings in this Sermon we are studying!
3. “You can’t serve God and also serve the world and its resources!”
4. “Don’t worry about how to live according to the world’s standards and ways!”
5. “ Seek this new way of God’s life FIRST and then life will all fall in place!”

B. Let’s determine that we will take our redemption in its fullness and live according to its standard and be governed by The Kingdom it represents!

Colossians 1:13-16 (NLT)

13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. 15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme

over all creation, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.

1. Doesn't this sound like Isaiah 9? The government on His shoulders?
2. Not only does He have the authority to inaugurate a new kingdom life...He did!
3. So...let's do what Jesus said and "seek first His new living and He would take care of the rest!"