

The Kingdom of God, the Community as God Imagines It III

When the Hebrew children left Egypt, Yahweh guided them from being just a people to becoming a nation, a new community and kingdom. They were to establish a new community, a kingdom in the earth as it is in Heaven.

“The Kingdom of God is the community as God images it”

KJV Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ **Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

Followers of Jesus are to pray and work towards the kingdom to come and His will (desire) to be done in earth as it is in Heaven, *the community as God images it.*

What is a vision for the community as God images it?

I

The faith and value shaping system are passing on God's value to the community.

NKJV Mark 12:28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, **“Which is the first commandment of all?”** ²⁹ Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. ³⁰ And **you shall love the LORD** your God with all your heart, with all your soul,

with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. ³¹ And the second, like it, is this: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. ³³ And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is **more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**” ³⁴ Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, **“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”** But after that no one dared question Him.

The kingdom is based on love not fear.

The political system is to insure justice.

NKJV **James 2:1** My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. ² For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, ³ and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” ⁴ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and **heirs of the kingdom** which He promised to those **who love Him?** ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to

the Scripture, “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself,**” you do well; ⁹ but **if you show partiality,** you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The kingdom e**choes** the cry for justice, fairness without partiality.

II

The economic system is to have f**air** s**haring** of God’s a**bundance**.

NKJV **Matthew 5:42** Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

The kingdom economic system is based on ge**nerosity** and s**haring**.

III

The kingdom has prophets to hold systems a**ccountable**.

John the Baptist was a prophet between two dispensations.

The prophet stood in one time and prophesied another kingdom.

NKJV **Luke 3:9** And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ So **the people** asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?” ¹¹ He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.” ¹² Then **tax collectors** also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.” ¹⁴ Likewise **the soldiers** asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So, he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

Repairing damage done by injustice is a principle of the kingdom.

Reparations is a principle of the kingdom.

Even David understood this principle.

KJV **Psalms 51:17** The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**:
a broken and **a contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Brokenness acknowledges the damage and breach injustice and sin does come between us and God.

Contriteness acknowledges and seeks to repair the damage done to people.

The prophet held the people and systems accountable.

IV

The people were to obey God.

^{NKJV} Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, ²⁸ Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. ²⁹ Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

In the kingdom we obey God not man.

- There is always **intimidation** to conform to this world.
- There is always **pressure** to stay in place.
- There are **threats** for non-conformists.

Our prayer and actions are “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. “

We are advancing the kingdom, *the community as He imagined it in perilous times.*

*Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7, 2023*

9:30 a.m.