

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

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 imagines 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 imagines it.*

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

^{KJV} **Matthew 7:28** And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, **the people were astonished at his doctrine:** ²⁹ For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

I

What did Jesus mean about being the salt of the earth?

^{KJV} **Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt has lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Salt...

Slows down the corrosion process

Enhances flavor

Is the answer for anything tastesless

Holds its uniqueness in every environment

Only influences what it touches

- The lack of contact, produces a lack of impact.

All relationships are based on need.

The absence of relationship is the absence of influence.

Consider *Matthew 5:13* Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

What happens when salt loses its savor, saltiness, and taste?

- Society sees it as unnecessary.
- Society becomes intolerant.
- Society begins to commit genocide.

II

How do we become salty again?

Let's become a *RELEVANT* church.

A relevant church is...

Realistic

Evangelist

Lifts up the **community**

Effective

Vibrant

Adaptable

Necessary

Today

III

A relevant church will put spice and taste back in people's life.

A relevant church will help people find their purpose.

A relevant church will stretch people's capacity.

A relevant church will help people reach their fullest potential.

Why did people listen to Jesus?

^{KJV} **Matthew 7:28** And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, **the people were astonished at his doctrine:** ²⁹ For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- *Know you are under authority.*
- *Know you have authority.*
- *Speak with authority.*

*Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, May 20 & 21, 2023
9:30 a.m.*