

Dirty-Handed Christians...Kingdom Minded!

Matthew 5:1-10

October 6, 2019

Have you ever heard this phrase used to describe someone:

"They are so **heavenly**-minded that they are of no earthly good!"

What are they meaning about that person when they use such a descriptive phrase?

Most likely that person is so churchy they have no clue about reality around them. They are always at church meetings, bible studies, worship, outreach that they have no time for anyone else. They go around saying, "Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!" Their heads are so far up in the clouds that they seem disconnected from those around them.

Or what about this phrase:

"They are so **earthly**-minded that they are of no heavenly good!"

What would that tell you about that person? They are so caught up in the ways of the world, pleasing their own self-interests that they want or have no time for God, church, helping others. They are too busy with themselves to have any time to give to God... unless a 911 emergency comes crashing into their lives.

As Dirty-Handed Christians we are going to take a look at what's on our minds...or what should be on our minds when it comes to being a follower of Jesus. Are you so heavenly minded or earthly minded? Can we find a balance?

I believe we can when we talk about being "**KINGDOM-MINDED!**"

We live in a time where we don't talk about kingdoms.

Well, since we do live in Florida we do hear about, talk about, a certain Kingdom near Orlando. Mickey's Magical Kingdom! Some people are actually passport members to that kingdom. You can see their coat of arms for the kingdom on their car.

I don't imagine many of us are a passport card carrying member of Mickey's Kingdom.

However, as Dirty-Handed Christians, there is a kingdom we are to be a part of...The Master's Kingdom...God's Kingdom. As followers of Jesus we are to be KINGDOM-MINDED!

As Kingdom-minded people we would want it to be said of us that we are:

"So Kingdom-minded that we are of **heavenly** good!" AND that we are:

"So Kingdom-minded that we are of **earthly** good!"

I want us to venture to this Kingdom and discover who we are to become as KINGDOM-MINDED followers of Jesus.

The first thing we must realize is that this kingdom is not our kingdom. It is a kingdom that is way more than any one person or group of people. We tend to remind ourselves of this major truth every time we pray the Lord's Prayer.

There are the lines we pray that speak to us that we are a part of a kingdom that is not our own...its not about me or we.

"Thy kingdom come...thy will be done!" (Matthew 6:10)
Whose kingdom? God's! Whose will is to be done? God's!

It sounds so easy doesn't it? But how difficult it can be to live out in our daily kingdom life! Kingdom life is a challenge. The challenge is not the enemy as much as our surrendering to God's Kingdom and His will in our lives.

How we like to sneak into His royal room and sit on His throne and try to run our own little kingdom lives from time to time. However, when we hear the enemies banging at the walls of our kingdom we panic and call for help.

We have to wrap our hearts and minds around this central truth... the Kingdom is God's and His will is to be done in our daily lives. Then there was that line added to the Lord's prayer in later biblical manuscripts that gives us encouragement in the daily battles of life:

"For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever!"

God's kingdom! God's power! God's glory! Temporarily?
FOREVER!!!

To be KINGDOM-MINDED gives us the assurance that God is almighty. No one or nothing can take away His authority in our lives through Jesus Christ. We are to give Him all the glory and know that His reign lasts forever.

With that in mind we are then given this simple command from Jesus:

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and then all we need will be given to us..." Matthew 6:33

To be "kingdom-minded" means that in our daily living we are to seek to do what is pleasing to God. We seek His will and His presence in the "biggs" as well as the "smalls" of life. When we look to do His will, live His Kingdom life, we find that He does walk with us through all we encounter. We realize real quickly that others try to become priority in our lives. We have to stop and ask ourselves, "Whose kingdom am I a part of?" We are not to let our desires overtake God in our lives. He does give us that freedom to choose.

Kingdom-minded followers seek to fill our thoughts, desires, and actions with God's kingdom values. It is His character that we want to guide us in our lives. It is a daily choice we make to live counter-culture...to live Christ-like.

What does this "Kingdom-minded" active life and character look like?

Jesus described it in part of the sermon we read earlier, His sermon on the mount...the beatitudes. I want us to look at a few of them and discover that we are blessed or find inner peace when we live as Kingdom-minded followers of Jesus.

You are kingdom-minded when:

"*you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule...

****you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you...***

****you're content with just who you are---no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought...***

****you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll eat...***

****you care. At that moment of being 'care-full', you find yourselves cared for...***

****you get your inside world---your mind and heart---put right. Then you can see God in the outside world...***

****you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family...***

****your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom."***

(Matthew 5:3-10 Message bible)

Kingdom-minded followers of Jesus are ready to:

- +Say and do what seems strange to our culture.
- +Give when others take.
- +Love when others hate.
- +Forgive when others hold grudges, persecute and judge.
- +Help when others abuse or say its not my concern.
- +Give up own rights, time, money to serve others.
- +Show compassion when others condemn.

Jesus told the people that the kingdom of God was within them.
(Luke 17:20-21)

We don't have to get a passport and travel to some foreign land to experience the kingdom of God here and now.

The kingdom of God begins as the work of the Holy Spirit...

Christ's Spirit in us, guiding us, encouraging and empowering us.

We are not to look at institutions, governments or agencies as evidence of God's kingdom at work in our lives. Instead, we are to look into our hearts and see how we are allowing God's Holy Spirit to work out His kingdom values in our lives. We steep our lives into God-reality...God-initiative...God-provision.

The kingdom of God is not a way out there something. It is a here and now reality. It is the realization of the power of God in redemption thru Jesus here and now. We remember and celebrate this reality when we come to the altar and take communion. God's kingdom is here and now and it is also a future fulfillment of God's purpose and will in the establishment of an imperishable and eternal order.

God's kingdom is a reality now in that God has established his power and love through Jesus. The kingdom of God has come in His sending Jesus, who in one stroke conquered sin, guilt and death on the cross.

We don't talk about kingdom loyalty these days. However, there is a lot of talk about team loyalty, company loyalty, business loyalty and family loyalty.

We have a choice in all of these.

We also have a choice in our loyalty to God.

We have a choice to be kingdom-minded or worldly-minded in our lives.

As God's people we are not limited by the choices culture offers to us.

We have a basic loyalty choice: God's Kingdom of Light or Satan's Kingdom of Darkness. God's way or the way of the world.

We are told in God's Word that anyone who believes and receives Jesus as their Savior has transferred their loyalty from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1:13)

As Dirty-Handed Christians we have a Kingdom-minded loyalty to Jesus.

So what's on your mind these days?

Are you so heavenly-minded that you are of no earthly good?

OR

Are you so earthly-minded that you are of no heavenly good?

OR

As a Dirty-handed Christian are you so Kingdom minded that you are of heavenly and earthly good?

