

Message Six

The Reality of the Kingdom of the Heavens (3)

Scriptures reading: Matt. 5:20; 6:1-34; 7:1-12, 21.

I. The righteous deeds of the people of the kingdom of the heavens—Matt. 6:1-18.

- A. In order to live in the reality of the kingdom today and participate in its manifestation in the future, we need to live out the indwelling Christ as our subjective righteousness—Matt. 5:20; 22:11-12; Rev. 19:7-8:
1. It is impossible for our natural life to gain the surpassing righteousness; it can be produced only by a higher life, the resurrection life of Christ.
 2. Both in nature and in standard, the righteousness of life far surpasses the lifeless righteousness practiced by the scribes and Pharisees—cf. Phil. 3:9.
 3. We need to hunger and thirst after Christ as our surpassing righteousness; then God will grant us the very righteousness that we seek, so that we may be satisfied—Matt. 5:6, 10; 6:33
- B. The principle of the righteous deeds of the kingdom people who are under the heavenly ruling of the kingdom is that they are not allowed to do anything in the flesh for the praise of men, but must do all things in the spirit, in secret, for the pleasing of their heavenly Father—vv. 1-6, 16-18:
1. We must do our righteous deeds in secret, for our Father is in secret and sees in secret—vv. 4, 6, 18.
 2. The effect of doing our righteous deeds in secret is that the flesh and the self are killed.
 3. The saints who know only to make a show of the self and a display of the flesh will not grow in life.

II. Dealing with material riches of the people of the kingdom of the heavens—vv.19-34.

- A. The kingdom people should not lay up for themselves treasures on earth, but treasures in heaven—vv. 19-20.
- B. The kingdom people must send their treasure to heaven so that their heart also be in heaven—v. 21.
- C. No one can serve two masters; wealth or riches are opponents of God, robbing God's people of their service to Him—vv. 23-24; cf. v. 22.
- D. The kingdom people do not need to be anxious of their lives, eating, drinking, and clothing—v. 25, 31.
1. Apparently, in this section of the constitution, the Lord is speaking about the dealing of the kingdom people with material riches; Actually, He is dealing with the matter of anxiety—v. 25, 27, 28, 31, 34.
 2. As the heavenly Father knows all our needs, we must first seek after His righteousness and the kingdom, and not be anxious for tomorrow—vv. 32-34.

III. The principles of the kingdom people in dealing with others—7:1-12.

- A. The kingdom people, living in a humble spirit under the heavenly ruling of the kingdom, always judge themselves, not others—v. 1, 4-5.
- B. We should not give that which is holy to the dogs or cast our pearls before the hogs, lest they trample them with their feet, and turn and tear us—v. 6:
- C. As we are contacting people and dealing with them, we must ask, seek, and knock for the proper way to contact them—Matt. 7:7-8; 1 Tim. 5:1-2:

IV. The will of God and the building of God—6:10; 7:21.

- A. In order to enter into the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens in the coming age, we must do the will of our Father in this age—7:21-23; 6:10; 12:50; Rev. 4:11; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; 5:17; Col. 1:9; 4:12.
 - 1. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure, and He created all things for His will that He might accomplish and fulfill His purpose—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9-11; Col. 1:9:
 - 2. The kingdom is absolutely a matter of God's will and completely fulfills God's will; in fact, the kingdom is God's will—Matt. 6:10.
 - 3. The ultimate issue of the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens is the will of the heavenly Father—7:21.
 - 4. As the kingdom people, we are on earth to do the Father's will—7:21; 12:50.
 - 5. In order to do the will of the Father, we need to enter in through the narrow gate and walk on the constricted way—7:13-14.
 - 6. Whoever does the will of the Father is a relative of the Lord Jesus—12:50.
- B. The Father's eternal will is to build up the church upon Christ the Son as the rock—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.
 - 1. God's building is the desire of God's heart and the goal of God's salvation—Eph. 1:5, 9; 2:8, 10, 21-22; Exo. 25:8.
 - 2. The Lord's word in Matthew 16:18 is the greatest prophecy in the Bible: "I will build My church."
 - 3. The Lord's word about "a city situated upon a mountain" indicates that the kingdom people need the building—5:14.
 - 4. To be built up with fellow believers is the Lord's supreme and highest requirement of His faithful seekers according to the divine oneness of the Divine Trinity—John 17.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

Matt. 6:1-33.

1 But take care not to do your righteousness before men in order to be gazed at by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in the heavens. **2** Therefore when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full. **3** But you, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** So that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. **5** And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners, so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full. **6** But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. **7** And in praying do not babble empty words as the Gentiles do; for they suppose that in their multiplicity of words they will be heard. **8** Therefore do not be like them, for your Father knows the things that you have need of before you ask Him.

9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified; **10** Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. **11** Give us today our daily bread. **12** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. **13** And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

14 For if you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you also; **15** But if you do not forgive men their offenses, neither will your Father forgive your offenses. **16** And when you fast, do not be like the sullen-faced hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so that they may appear to men to be fasting. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full. **17** But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, **18** So that you may not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on the earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves dig through and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not dig through nor steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **22** The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light; **23** But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **24** No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **25** Because of this, I say to you, Do not be anxious for your life, what you should eat or what you should drink; nor for your body, what you should put on. Is not the life more than food, and the body than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of heaven. They do not sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father nourishes them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** Who among you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? **28** And why are you anxious concerning clothing? Consider well the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil, neither do they spinthread. **29** But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these. **30** And if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is *here* today and tomorrow is cast into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, you of little faith? **31** Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? **32** For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself; sufficient for the day is its *own* evil.

Matt. 7:1-12.

1 Do not judge, that you be not judged. **2** For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with what measure you measure, it shall be measured to you. **3** And why do you look at the splinter which is in your brother's eye, but the beam in your eye you do not consider? **4** Or how can you say to your brother, Let me remove the splinter from your eye, and behold, the beam is in your eye? **5** Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye. **6** Do not give that which

is holy to the dogs, neither cast your pearls before the hogs, lest they trample them with their feet, and turn and tear you. **7** Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. **8** For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. **9** Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks him for a loaf, will give him a stone? **10** Or also when he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? **11** If you then being evil know *how* to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in the heavens give good things to those who ask Him! **12** Therefore all that you wish men would do to you, so also you do to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

Matt. 7:21 Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.