

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG232 – Thy Kingdom Come

Hello, and welcome to the podcast. Once again, I want to wish everyone a happy New Year. There are so, so many things happening right now. For sure, in the US we are just on the verge of having a change in the government, which will happen in a few days. There are so many events that are transpiring and have been for the last several weeks, it is almost hard to keep abreast of what is taking place, and to figure out what is happening and why it is happening. So, I want to interject a little today in this podcast to help us keep our focus on what is really taking place, what is transpiring, and why it is transpiring. One of the things I want us to feel as believers is that the things that are taking place are not an accident, and they are not without our participation as Christians, as believers, in our faith. We have initiated, and are initiating, much of what is going on. You may say, "That does not make sense to me. I am not doing anything, I am not making this happen." Well, I think that we really are, more than we understand. I think we have been taught and have created a focus which is bringing about what is happening around us. And so, in this podcast, and maybe the next couple of podcasts, I want to delve into these things so that there is more of a clarity.

One of the concerns that I personally have because of what is going on is that we, as believers, are able to hold our focus and understanding on the nexus of what is transpiring. When you get into a hurricane, you see things flying all around you, barns, trees, cows, whatever; and from that perspective, it is a very confusing situation. In a sense, you have to go above it all and look at it from another perspective of, "What is creating this swirling wind, and causing all of these things to happen?" If you look at it, it really is very understandable from a weather perspective; and from a weather radar perspective, it is very clear and simple to understand what is taking place. So, if we could just lift ourselves out of the middle of the hurricane and look from another perspective, we would gain clarity.

I want to start that perspective in Matthew the sixth chapter. We are going to read starting with verses 7-8. This is Christ teaching us how to pray: "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask...." In other words, do not pray for the superfluous. Do not pray for things that God already knows you need. Christ was trying to sharpen our focus on what we should be praying for. And so, He goes on in verses 9-10, saying, "Pray, then, in this way...." In other words, if you are not going to pray uselessly for things that God already knows that you need to take care of yourself and your own human needs, "Pray, then, in this way: "Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The very heart of the Lord's Prayer is these two verses: "Pray, 'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.'" The focus is on God, and the focus is on the Kingdom of God; and I think that should be our focus. I do not think we should leave this focus.

What Christ taught us in what we call the Lord's Prayer – which is really the Disciples' Prayer, because it is our prayer; He is teaching us to pray – and in that prayer, He gives us the absolute focus that we are to have. He lifts us up above everything that is going on, swirling around us at any given time in our lives, in our humanity, in the world, and He tells us, number one, to be focused on the Father. Remember, before we got into these verses, He said, "When you are going to pray, go into your closet alone with

the Father and close the door.” The emphasis is the Father. It is our relationship to the Father. It is being shut in with Him, away from all the distractions and everything else that is going on.

So, for just a moment here, we have to set aside the book of Revelation with all the beasts and all the things that are happening, and the false witness; all of that just makes the end-time seem so scary. And, again, what I want to do is to come down to what I think really matters, because all of those things are a result. It is like standing in the hurricane, realizing that, as we said, barns are flying by, roofs are coming off of homes, cars are turned upside down; it is just a swirling mass of craziness. And if somebody were to ask you to keep an accurate record of every little thing that is happening at the moment, it would be impossible to do that. So, Christ in teaching us how to pray and giving us the Disciples’ Prayer gives us far more than just a simple prayer; He gives us this fixed focus on what is important and what is the root cause of all that is happening around us. If we can keep our focus on the root cause, and what is sort of the stake in the ground, then we become immovable; and that is where we are supposed to be in our faith. We are supposed to be immovable, right? So, it is our Father who is in heaven that is the first and premier focus of all that is happening, all that has been happening, all that will be happening; and He is holy, and He is in charge.

Verse 10 goes on to say, “Your kingdom come.” We have been praying this prayer as believers for years and years and years, “Thy Kingdom come.” What is the conclusion of the Scriptures? It is the Kingdom of God. The finality is when the Kingdom is established, and Christ is able to hand over to the Father all things. The Father put all things into His hands, and He was seated at the right hand of the Father until His enemies be made a footstool to His feet, the Kingdom is established, and then Christ, it says, hands all these things over to the Father. That is what we are looking for. So, what is going on around us? The Kingdom of God is coming.

Now, for the Kingdom of God to come onto this earth – because that is what the prayer says, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” – we realize that it is being manifested in the heavens now, but it will be manifested on earth as we move forward. It is this idea of the Kingdom coming on earth. When you think about it, that creates a lot of problems on the earth, because there are a lot of kingdoms that exist now on the earth. Look at all of the nations, look at all of the peoples; the earth is filled with many, many nations. All of those nations are going to come under the Kingdom of God, come under the Lordship of Christ, come under God’s will – because that is what you are praying: “Your will be done on earth.” So, all nations must come under the will of God; and that is not just easily done. You see, these other kingdoms are not really excited about this. That is why, as we read on and we see what is happening, it is not necessarily that peoples or individuals are having a problem with the Kingdom of God, so much as it is that nations are.

When we talk about nations, we are talking about the governments, the leadership of those nations, those who are in charge of the nations. But as we know, throughout the globe, we as individuals do not necessarily agree with the leadership of our individual nations. I happen to be in the United States of America while I am recording this podcast – it does not mean that I agree with the existing government of this nation, or the policies of this nation; and I do not, many times. I do not especially where I do not believe that those policies or decisions are in alignment with what we are talking about here – that is, the will of God being done in the earth, and the Kingdom of God. Where I feel like the nation that I live in is living in disagreement, or in a counter morality, with the Kingdom of God, then I do not as an individual agree with that nation.

When we talk about the nations and what happens with the nations, it is important that we realize that the nations will be dealt with as nations; and in that dealing, it will include those leaderships and those peoples that are part of creating what exists on a national level. That does not represent all individuals within that nation – that is why we see a lot of things transpiring in many countries, protests happening in countries and different things that take place, because they all do not necessarily agree. I know, thankfully, that in this nation, one thing we do have is the right of free speech, at least for now, and the right to voice our dissensions and our disagreements with the policies of the government. So, it is important, moving forward, as things transpire around us, that we recognize that when nations are addressed, it is not necessarily every individual within that nation. We, as believers, do have a way of thinking that is a biblical worldview. We have a way of living that is not necessarily in alignment with all of those in the nation surrounding us. And that is what we will recognize as things go forward, coming into the days of the Kingdom.

This is that prayer: “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth.” What is transpiring in, if you want to put it this way, this takeover, the Kingdom of God taking over the governments of the world, is that at some point there will be a Kingdom. And remember, the Kingdom by itself is not a democracy. It is going to be a singular government where Christ as the King, representative of the Father, is going to be ruling the nations. At some point there is a rod of iron involved with that, because not everybody is going to gracefully submit to this idea of the Kingdom of God coming to the earth. And that is really the confusion or the battle that we find ourselves in.

Now the rest of the prayer we know, and it is wonderful. I will read it, because it deals with our individual hearts before the Lord. Verses 12-13, “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation,” or into a trial, “but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” This is what we really see transpiring. And we as Christians are really at the very heart cause of what is going on in the world around us. Again, when people read the book of Revelation or read prophecies about the end-time, mostly I find that they are worried about it, or are afraid of it, or are confused over it – “What’s happening? What’s happening?” Well, let’s face it – you started this. We, with our prayer that Christ taught us, have initiated much of what is going on around us now. We are not just standing on the sidelines. Every time we pray this prayer, we are initiating the Kingdom of God coming on the earth, and the will of God being done on the earth. And this has been going on for a long time. This preaching of, and speaking of, the Kingdom of God is at the very heart of Christ, the very heart of Judaism, the very heart of our faith; realizing that there is a Kingdom that will come on the earth that is the line of David sitting on the throne. These are not unusual concepts to us. But I do not think that a lot of times we connect with how it actually happens, or what it is going to take for it to happen; because for there to be a different government, a Kingdom government on this earth, you can see that there are going to be many other rulers and dictators and governors, even democracies, that are going to be displaced by this Kingdom that God is bringing forth. And again, this is no surprise.

I am going to read out of Matthew the third chapter, starting with verses 1-2. It says, “In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” So, when the Kingdom comes, we individually have to repent. Why? Because we do not want to find ourselves in opposition to the Kingdom, and things in our life can bring us into opposition; and that happens on a personal level, just as it does on a national level. Nations need to repent, so that there is nothing within those nations which is bucking and fighting and protesting and standing against the Kingdom of heaven as it is coming. Verse 3, “For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when

he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!"'"

I am going to go to Matthew the fourth chapter, verses 12-17.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a Light dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

I read all of these verses because we see that Christ went and settled in Capernaum, and we see that He was preaching not just to Israel and the Jewish people, but He was in Galilee of the Gentiles; so, there was a speaking to the Gentiles. We know that He went across the Galilee and did testify before the Gentiles. This is something that has been going on, this announcement that the Kingdom of God is coming on the earth. We need to recognize that.

So, again, do not look around today and say, "Gosh, what is happening? This is craziness! Who would ever believe this is going on and that is going on?" Okay, come on, get up out of the middle of the hurricane and look from above. Look at what God has been speaking, look at what the Scriptures have been saying, and recognize that all that is transpiring is very simple to understand, and it is exactly according to the plan. It is exactly what has been spoken, starting with John the Baptist and Christ, for over 2,000 years; and it was spoken by the prophets before that, about the son of David coming and setting up a Kingdom. So, these are not strange things. They are not something that just all of a sudden started to take place. It is something that was pronounced and spoken of a long time ago.

In Psalm 2, starting with verses 1-3, it says, "Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!'" See, the nations, the rulers of the nations, they are ready to throw out the Kingdom of God. They are ready to throw away Christ, the son of David, as the ruler over them. They do not want this, and therefore, they are going to fight it.

Verses 4-12,

He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, "But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain."

"I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

What are we seeing today? What are we living through in these days we call the end-time? We are living through this dispossession of the leadership, the rulership, of the earth. The kings and the judges and the authorities that have ruled over the earth are no longer going to rule, because the Kingdom of God is coming. And do not forget: we, as believers, have been a great part of praying these days into existence. So do not look around and say, "I do not get it. I am afraid. I am confused. I am concerned about the wars and the rumors of wars. I am concerned about all that seems to be taking place, it seems like the world has become very dangerous." Well, it has, and that is because the Prince of Peace is coming to rule and reign. Let not your heart be in fear. Let not your spirit become passive or melt within you. Continue to pray the prayer that you were given from the beginning. Keep your focus on the Father. Keep worshiping Him as the Lord, the Creator of all. And keep speaking into existence, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Amen.