

NATION BUILDER'S

WILLIS 12/20/09

Luke 12:22-32

Our intent this morning is to conclude our series on the Kingdom of God. So far in our feeble attempt to define that which stands outside our ability to reduce to a simple explanation, we have described **The Kingdom of God: What it is. The Kingdom of God is the rule, the realm and the ruler of God.**

- **The Kingdom of God: When it is. The Kingdom of God is now and at the same time, not yet.**
- It's the tension of these two working together that empowers us to make disciples and build nation's. Nation's are built one disciple at a time...Nation's are built one revelation of the Kingdom at a time.
- **Never underestimate the power of one.** "In 1645 one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England. In 1776 one vote determined English would be the official language of America not German. In 1923 one vote gave Hitler control of the Nazi Party." (Brian Watts pg 238 Treasure in the Field) **One plus God is the factor of reform.**

Today in our final message we want to turn our attention to **The Kingdom of God: Where it is.** I have entitled our message "Nation Builder's" for that is the intent of the Kingdom, the building of the Nation.

Lk12:22-32

"It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." The Kingdom of God is not an earned acquisition. Jesus said quite clearly, the Kingdom is given. It is very pleasing for Father to give the Kingdom but He does reserve the right to benefit only those who seek it first.

- The question we want to answer today is: **When the good pleasure of God gives the Kingdom, where does He give it or as the Kingdom is given, where does it apply?**
- To be as simple and as clear as I could possibly be, it is the good pleasure of God to give the Kingdom everywhere. The where of the Kingdom is without limitation.
- **The where of the Kingdom is clearly: 1. The heart of every individual person. 2. The center of every jurisdiction of government. 3. The expression of every cultural mountain of influence.**

When we understand the what, the when and the where of the Kingdom we are immediately led into a theology of cultural responsibility. Cultural or Social responsibility is central to the command to "Occupy until I come." The where of the Kingdom is now on earth as it is in heaven

The fruit of cultural reformation is one of the primary factors that the Kingdom has come.

Mt21:43 “The Kingdom will be taken from you and given to a Nation producing the fruit of it.” Who is that Nation Jesus refers to? (The Church) In Mt 21 Jesus refers to the Church as a Nation. Peter affirms this classification in 1Pt 2:9 “You are a Holy Nation...”

- If that be the case, why are we the Nation never referred to? When was the last time you heard the Church referred to as a Nation? (We hear of the Raider Nation, the Farrakhan Nation, even the Obama Nation) but why not the Jesus Nation?
- **It’s because in our independence we refuse all the distinctions that would identify us nationally...Common leader, common government, common land, common language and a common culture.**

We acknowledge a common King but is He a now King or a soon coming King? We refuse a common government and justify it by saying authority is controlling. The law, we say is no longer valid, so without common law and without common government you will never become a nation.

- We refused a common land making heaven our focus so left the management of the earth to the devil. The earth is not my home, we said, we are just passing through.
- We refuse a common culture wanting to be more like the nation we occupy than the nation we represent. **It takes culture to indentify a Nation but in our insecurity we ask the Nation we occupy to validate us and then call it relevancy.**

Reductionism has been the ploy of the enemy. He knows he can’t eliminate the Kingdom so his strategy is to reduce it by redefining it. Just like he bargained with Jesus in the wilderness and lost, he bargained with the Church and won...

- His bargain was, “I will give you heaven later if you give me the earth now.” Neither of which were his to give. Ps115:16 says, “The earth God gave to the sons of men.” The earth was never Satan’s to give...that is until we gave it away.
- So he was willing to give us individual experience now, a collective experience in heaven later if we gave him the social, political and cultural rights now.

So we retreated back into our religious ghetto’s forgetting our very first command was to rule and subdue the earth. We forget Christ’s final command was to go and disciple nation’s. **Instead of being “in the world but not of the world,” we became of the world but not in the world.**

- Dualism legitimized our separation from the world by calling the sacred holy and the secular evil. Now we had a nice little box to rationalize our retreat.
- Then we spiritualized the separation by calling social responsibility “The Liberal Gospel” and we left all social responsibility to the liberal church.

- The Kingdom of God transcends the spiritual and the social making the two complimentary aspects of the Kingdom expression.

E. Stanley Jones said, **“An individual gospel without a social gospel is a soul without a body. A social gospel without an individual gospel is a body without a soul. The first is a ghost. The second is a corpse.**

- The message of the Kingdom is an individual gospel fueled by a social mandate. It is a message that transforms the individual while it reforms the culture. **A God inspired revelation of heaven will result in a God empowered subduing of the earth.**
- According to Romans 8 all creation waits on tip toes for sons and daughters of God to take their rightful place in the management of the earth and when they do all hell breaks loose.
- **We were not born into times of peace; we were born into the battle of two kingdoms...our birth being a declaration of war.** So we say Salvation...by all means. Heaven...absolutely, but both are our final reward. Conquest is our present responsibility.

While we celebrate our final reward, we must fully engage our present responsibility to occupy the territory. **We engage the territory through legislative intercession and we hold it through cultural occupation.**

- Meaning, to become a Nation that occupies, we must quit bowing down to “Pharaoh’s” system and begin to displace his systems with institutions of our own. We must raise up our own Schools, Universities, Politicians, Businesses, Music and Artistic expressions.
- We must displace the mammon system that foster’s greed, displace the dating system that practices divorce, displace the parenting practices that caters to the children rather than commands them, displace the entertainment systems with the sights and sounds of heaven

Jim Hodges said in “Releasing the Sounds of Heaven on Earth,” **“His is a governmental priesthood Apostolic in the Church and kingly on the earth...Through the delegation of authority He brings us into that same priesthood as Vice Regents and we reign with Him through worship and intercession.”**

- So the reach of the Kingdom begins in the heart of the individual then like leaven seeks to permeate every jurisdiction of government or mountain of cultural influence.
- To bring it down to a word...**The where of the Kingdom begins in the heart of every individual then it reaches for self government, family government, marketplace government, civil government and church government.**

As it reaches for every sphere of governmental expression it also seeks to reform or displace every mountain of cultural influence. **Beginning with the Church who is chief of all the mountains, the Kingdom reaches to reform family, business, education, government, media, arts and entertainment.**

All of this according to Ep3:10 being “through the Church the manifold wisdom of God being made known to principalities and powers in heavenly places.

“For it is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom” and what He gives is not a religious system but a governmental way...a way that results in ever increasing peace, provision and watchful protection.