

## ***Thy Kingdom Come...***

*Today: Thy Kingdom Come...through ME!*

*March 25, 2007*

Jesus' words from the Lord's Prayer: ***“Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”***

*Matthew chapter 6 verses 9 & 10 (737)*

Defining the issue...

***Jesus said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats***

***“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.”***

***“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’”***

***And the King will say, “I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers & sisters, you were doing it to me!”***

*Matthew chapter 25 verses 31 - 40 (756)*

The “least of these” could be...

- the outcast
- the down-and-out of society
- the one's overlooked by the rest
- those who hold no political power
- those who do not have the ability to pay back or to help you advance in any way

One of the proofs of my God-transformed life is my compassion towards “the least of these”

*(over)*

**Jesus also tells us many times to love our neighbor as we love ourselves** (*Matthew chapter 5 verse 43, Matthew chapter 19 verse 19, Luke chapter 10 verses 25-37, etc.*)

When asked who it was that Jesus meant as our neighbor, Jesus replied with this story...

***A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.***

***By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.***

***Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil & wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, "Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here."***

***"Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."***

*Luke chapter 10 verses 30 - 37 (792)*

Go and do the same...

- My "neighbors" are not just those that live next to me
- My "neighbor" is anyone in need that I come across in life
- I must treat my "neighbor" in the same way I would want others to treat me when I was in need
- Doing this will cost me my convenience, time & money
- Doing this means that I need to rearrange my priorities & schedule
- Doing this will cause others to ridicule me

What's the big deal about all this anyway??

- ***We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.***

*Ephesians chapter 2 verse 10 (896)*

- ***Jesus said, "Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."***

*Matthew chapter 5 verse 16 (736)*

**Next week:** "Thy Kingdom Come...On Earth" & special guest "The Children of the World" International Choir