



Empowering People to Change the World

Kingdom Justice

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Matthew 12:15-21

¹⁵ But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. ¹⁶ Yet He warned them not to make Him known, ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; ²¹ And in His name Gentiles will trust.”

- Historically, Israel was considered the servant of the Lord. Matthew is quoting one of four “servant songs” in Isaiah and he is clearly attributing the servant qualities not to Israel but to Jesus as Messiah.
- Isaiah is prophesying that the Messiah will come and bring forth justice upon the earth, not just for the Jews but for gentiles, the entire world.
 - Matthew is saying that Jesus has come to bring healing,
 - To lift up the bruised and broken.
 - The world’s leaders do the opposite: we quarrel and cry out; we break the bruised; we put out the wick.
 - But His objective is to “bring forth justice to victory.”

Justice: the quality of being just, impartial, or fair; conformity to truth, fact, or reason.

- Have you noticed that justice doesn’t often come to victory in this world?
 - In the true story, depicted in the recent movie, “Dark Waters,” attorney Mark Ruffalo takes on the chemical company, Dupont, who is knowingly poisoning waters for decades in the small West Virginia town.

- The movie “Just Mercy” tells the true story of Walter Milligan being helped by attorney Bryan Stevenson on death row who was unjustly convicted of crimes that he did not commit.
- In “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Atticus Finch defends a black man unjustly accused of a crime against a white woman.
- Satan rules over this earth. But it is Kingdom people who fight injustices.
- Jesus came to “send forth justice to victory.” Justice matters to God...in business, in law, in our court system.

Matthew 12:22-24

²² Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. ²³ And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”²⁴ Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

- The Pharisees are incensed. They are not a justice people or a compassionate people. Their world is all about power.
- How many of you know that when you lust for power and control, you don’t think very well?
- This is a set up by the Pharisees. Not a little headache but they bring the hardest case they can come up with—a man who is deaf, mute, and demon possessed.
- But then Jesus heals him immediately and they are back on their heels. What do we say?
 - Their logic goes like this: if we say a legitimate healing from God has taken place, we are affirming Jesus as Messiah and we certainly can’t do that.

- So, we have to say that Satan did it; even worse we will say Beelzebub, an ancient Philistine deity did it.
- What Jesus says next is not only dramatic but definitive of not only His identity but the characteristics of the Kingdom of God on earth, something we can really learn from.

Kingdom Justice

Matthew 12:25-27

²⁵ But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

- 1. First, Jesus says that no kingdom divided against itself can last for very long.**
 - You would think this is good news to the Pharisees for if what Jesus is saying is true and if what they are saying is true, then the kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming certainly won't last very long.
 - But what Jesus is saying is true; it's true that if a kingdom is divided within itself, it cannot stand.
 - This is why people commit suicide.
 - This is why people become alcoholics and drug addicts.
 - They have a divided kingdom within—their own psychological and spiritual kingdom—that is divided within themselves. They have a divided heart, a divided spirit, a divided mind.
 - Trials come. Trials come to test our faith.

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to

all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting (a divided kingdom), for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:2-8

- This is exactly what Satan does. He sows doubts into your mind, questions in your mind about what you believe and you gradually become double-minded, unstable in ALL your ways.
- So, it is a kingdom law that a kingdom, any kingdom cannot stand if it's divided.
- But listen, you can change. You can repent. You can grow through the hard times. Don't stay where you are. Don't face trials the same way—change. Be transformed. You don't have to be double-minded anymore!
- If you repent, if you change and take on God's kingdom in your heart, you can begin to plunder Satan's influence over your life.

Matthew 12:28-30

²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. ³⁰ He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

2. The Kingdom of God is Plundering Satan's House. The Stronger power can always cast out the weaker power. The Kingdom of God can enter the Satan's House and Plunder his goods.

- This world is Satan's house. There's no justice here unless Kingdom People stand up and are willing to plunder the enemies house.
- When we pray, when we work, when we love people, when we make baskets for the doctors and nurses at Memorial North Hospital, we are in a small way plundering Satan's kingdom.

Matthew 12:31-32

³¹ ***“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.***

³² ***Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.***

3. Giving Satan credit for the Work of the Holy Spirit is Unpardonable!

- The Pharisees are saying that the work of God is demonic! They are actually giving Satan credit for God’s power! Wow.
- The unpardonable sin is not so much an act but a continual, willful rejection of the truth. The scribes and religious leaders in Israel had ample evidence of the identity of Christ—they had seen the miracles, heard His teaching, and they knew the prophecies—and they willfully rejected truth.
- The unpardonable sin is not an act but an attitude of calling good evil and evil good; a willful blindness to truth and thus unable to recognize truth. You are immune to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 12:33-37

4. A Person’s Heart is known by his/her Words

- The words you use are not idle words but rather, define your heart.
- Justice is defined by the words you use!
- If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. (James 1:26)***

Proverbs 12:13-22 (NIV)

13 Evildoers are trapped by their sinful talk,

14 From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things,

**17 An honest witness tells the truth,
but a false witness tells lies.**

**18 The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.**

**19 Truthful lips endure forever,
but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.**

**20 Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil,
but those who promote peace have joy.**

**22 The Lord detests lying lips,
but he delights in people who are trustworthy.**

You can change! Repentance means to turn around, do a 180. Turn around and instead of running from God, start today and run to God!

- Jesus is always on the lookout for people who desire to bring justice to victory.
- Jesus is always on the lookout for people who want to plunder Satan's kingdom.
- Jesus is always on the lookout for people who have good hearts.
- Join the team! Put on a new jersey! Follow a new coach!
- Jesus came to "send forth justice to victory; and in His name People will trust."

