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TH/IC720: Power Encounter 2020

Theology of the Kingdom

In Genesis God speaks about the creation of the heavens, earth, creatures and man. When He finished creation, He looked at it and said it was good. He created man in His image to govern the earth and animals. Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground”. (Gen 1:26) He created woman as man’s equal, she was to be His helper, because it was not good for man to be alone. In this new creation there was no shame and no sickness. God gave every seedbearing plant to man as food, except the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In this new creation, man and woman would commune with God. They would walk and talk with God. The kingdom of God is what He intended when He first created all; the kingdom is creation without sin.

Sin entered the world when the Devil deceived Adam and Eve (man and woman) into disobeying God. They ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil that God had prohibited. In this act of disobedience man and woman surrendered their dominion over to the Devil. Ephesians 2:1-2 speaks to this, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.” When sin entered the world there was a separation between man and God. Shame, death, sickness and brokenness came in as well.

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The Devil, also known as Satan, hates man and came to kill, steal and destroy, God's creation (John 10:10). The Devil rebelled against God and comes against God's kingdom and rule daily. In Job 2 we see the Accuser, Satan patrolling the earth to see who he could afflict. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that the "struggle is not against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

Thank be to God that He is "almighty" (2Cor 6:18; Rev 1:8). God is all powerful, nothing is too hard for Him (Gen 18:14; Jer 32:27). "With God all things are possible." (Matt 19:26). And the advisory, Satan has been defeated. God sent His son Jesus in the flesh to do what Adam failed to do, remain without sin. Jesus came to reconcile the relationship between man and God and do away with sin and death. Jesus obeyed the father in all His ways. When Jesus died on the cross, He descended and took the keys of the kingdom back from Satan. Jesus rose again and defeated death (Acts 2:24). This act of love was done so that the, man who believes in the son, that Jesus died and rose again, would live forever with God the father.

Jesus' ministry while on earth was about Him giving the keys to the kingdom of heaven back to man (Math. 16-19). We also see this in Mark 1:14-34, Jesus proclaimed the good news of the Gospel, that the kingdom of God was near, and people needed to believe and repent. Jesus's ministry consisted of proclaiming the good news, healing the sick (Mark 1.29-34), raising the dead, casting out demons (Mark 1.21-28) and social justice/caring for those in need. Jesus

modeled kingdom lifestyle, in that He was intimate with the Father and did only as the Father instructed. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for you" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else-to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." (Mark 1.35-38) The fact that Jesus was in relationship with the Father allowed Him to know the will of the Father. In that Jesus was not out to please man but to do the will of the Father. Jesus made the Father central in His life and ministry. While making the Father central and abiding in Him, He was empowered by the Holy Spirit which allowed Him to demonstrate power and healing. In Jesus' obedience He gave up His right to use His divine attributes and did the works of the kingdom as a Human empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the books of Acts 2 they make reference to empowerment by the Holy spirit. "Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them." The empowerment by the holy spirit was predicted by the prophet Joel: "Acts 2:17-21 In the last days; God says I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below."

Today as we do kingdom ministry, we must understand the supremacy of our King/Heavenly Father. We must understand that "Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches,

we can do nothing apart from Him, but if we remain in Him, we will bear much fruit (John 15). This was the plan of the Heavenly Father, that through Jesus we would be reconciled to Him, and live forever with Him. We must understand that we serve an "unshakable God and we are from an unshakable kingdom" (Dr. Reimer) so we do not need to fear. Jesus says that He is the "I am" like the Father He is eternal, supreme over all creation. In ministry we must arm ourselves. In 2 Corinth 10 we learn that the weapons we fight with are not of this world. We must live out the armor of God. Give access to God in every area of our lives. We are to fight with worship, scripture, victorious prayer, use and understand the power of the cross. We must die to our selfish desires and self-reliance. We are not to make this too much about us, we must rid ourselves of pride. I remember early in my Christian walk, I believed Jesus was my Lord and Savior and I went to church and read my word, but I was demonized. I was still in sin and trying in my own strength to change. I had decided to go on a fast to help get me closer to God. Due to fact that I was giving access to these spirits in my disobedience I started listening to the wrong spirit. This lying spirit told me that I was a god, pride slipped in and all hell broke loose. When I pondered on that thought, I lost three days of sleep. I began to hallucinate and heard a war going on outside. I was hospitalized and diagnosed with bipolar. Before pride slipped in, I had never been diagnosed with bipolar. But honestly it was the best thing that ever happened to me. Because in that state I saw the enemies deceiving tactics, where he attacks your identity, he tries to undermine your trust for God and would condemn me. In that state I also saw that Jesus is real and that He never left me. Jesus brought me back to the story of King

Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4. Nebuchadnezzar became prideful and lost his mind then regained it when he submitted to God. I received deliverance and my sound mind when I fully submitted to God. I had to understand that He is supreme, that it is not all about me. Thank God everything is not about me. And I had to hold on to His word, "He has not given us a spirit of fear but of power love and sound mind" (2Timothy 1- 7).

I learned how to discern my heavenly Father's voice and ignore anything contrary to it. I also started understanding my identity in Christ. When I began to see myself the way God see's me, I understood the authority that was given to me by Jesus. I understand that nothing the enemy throws my way will shake me. Greater is He that is in me than He that is in the world. I began to see that the word of God is truth, and, in that truth, He gives me the grace to obey Him and do His will. And I learned to be thankful in everything. Therefore, Jesus' ministry is important to me. Deliverance, soul care and the power of Christ is what this broken world needs. I know how real it is and the power the Gospel holds to set people free. I will continue to seek the Lord, abide in Him and share with others what He did for me. I am so grateful that people do not have to go through life struggling, hurting and listening to the lies of the enemy. I am so grateful that God is equipping all of us at NYACK to give the to the kingdom back to man. That Jesus has given us purpose while here on earth to share the Gospel, make disciples and help usher in people to the kingdom of God.