



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church of Christ Welcomes You!

June 26, 2016

The Lord's People: Part 2

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Jesus was a master at using the things in the material realm, with which everyone is familiar, to illustrate the things in the spiritual realm, to which no one has direct access through the physical senses. He used a variety of figures to illustrate various features of the spiritual relationship that is possible between Him and us. Among them are "the church," "the family of God," "the kingdom of God and Christ," "the body of Christ," "the building of God" and "the vineyard of the Lord." The following is a continuation of the study of the family of God. To view the first article, please visit our website.

...There are also responsibilities in the family of God.

First, they have the responsibility of wearing the family name (Acts 4:11, 12; 11:26; 1 Peter 4:15, 16). What would you think if your children refused to wear the family name? Would you not be disappointed and hurt?

Second, they have the responsibility to be obedient to their Father, and to those whom the Father has appointed over them (Romans 8:12-17; Ephesians 5:22-24; 6:1-3, 5-8; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 1:13-17).

Third, they have the responsibility to love one another (1 John 4:7, 20, 21; 3:13-19; 1 Peter 1:22). Fourth, they are to remain separate from the world (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1; 1 John 2:15-17). If you are "a friend of the world" you are "the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

Entrance into the family of God is a simple matter.

As we have already pointed out, one must do the will of the Father in heaven. (Matthew 12:48-50) But what does God will that we do in order to enter into His family? He wills that we have faith (Galatians 3:26), for "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh unto God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Of course, those who believe "that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" will seek Him diligently. And one must seek Him within the pages of His word, for "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:20, 26), therefore the only faith that will please God is "obedient faith" (see Romans 1:5; 16:25, 26). And, when one has sufficient faith to repent and be baptized in water for the remission of sins, he is adopted into the family of God (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; 10:45; 22:16; Galatians 3:26, 27; 4:1-7). Just as those in the universal family of man are divided into individual, local families, those in the universal family of God are divided into individual, local families (Matthew 18:15-17; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23; 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1,2)

The Kingdom of God

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- **We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.**
- **We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.**

Five Day A Week Reading Plan

Mon: Psalm 148 - Proverbs 2

Tues: Proverbs 3-7

Wed: Proverbs 8-12

Thurs: Proverbs 13-17

Fri: Proverbs 18-22

Another figure Jesus used for the relationship between Him and His Father, on the one hand, and the Lord's people, on the other hand, is that of a political kingdom (Dan. 2:36-44). Let us notice the essential elements of a kingdom.

There are four essential elements of a kingdom.

1. There is a king. God the father, by virtue of His position in the Godhead, is Absolute Sovereign (Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:6; Matt. 6:9-10; Mark 1:14-15). He has given all authority in the kingdom to His Son, Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18; Rev. 1:9; 1 Cor. 15:23-28).

2. There are subjects over whom the king reigns. The subjects are all those who have been "born again" "of water and of the Spirit" (John 3:3-5) and have been "delivered...from the power of darkness, and...translated...into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:12-13).

3. There is the territory over which the king reigns. Inasmuch as the Kingdom of God is spiritual in nature (John 18:36), its territory is likewise spiritual—the human heart (Luke 17:20-21; Matt. 4:17; 28:18).

4. There must be a law, an expression of the king's will. The law of the Kingdom of God is the New Testament—the revelation of God through His Son (Heb. 1:1-2; John 6:44-45; 12:48; 14:6; 1 Cor. 9:21). Second, they have the responsibility to be obedient to their Father, and to those whom the Father has appointed over them (Romans 8:12-17; Ephesians 5:22-24; 6:1-3, 5-8; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 1:13-17).

Jesus taught "many things by parables" (Mark 4:2). A parable is an illustration from the material realm that is used to communicate something about the spiritual realm. Jesus used many of these to explain various features of the Kingdom of God.

It is like a man sowing seed (Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43). This illustrates the fact that kingdom citizens are to share God's word (Luke 8:11) with others so they, too, would have an opportunity to obey it.

It was also like a grain of mustard seed (Matt. 13:31, 32). Just as a tiny seed can grow into a gigantic plant, a small band of "Christian soldiers" grew into a mighty "army" [another figure for the Lord's people, implied by Paul's admonition to Timothy to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3-4)].

The kingdom was also like leaven (Matt. 13:33). "A little leaven leavens the whole lump," in the material realm. Just so, a few people who have been converted to Christ (having become citizens in His kingdom) can have enormous influence in a community.

The kingdom of God is like hidden treasure (Matt. 13:44), like a merchant who finds a costly pearl (Matt. 13:45, 46), and like a dragnet (Matt. 13:47-50). The first and second of these three parables illustrate the value of citizenship in the kingdom, which we will discuss shortly. The third demonstrates the fact that not all who enter the kingdom in its earthly, militant state will necessarily enter the kingdom in its eternal, triumphant state. This is because some who obey the gospel initially are not "faithful unto death" (Rev. 2:10). This point is also emphasized in the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:5-7, 20-22; Luke 8:6, 7, 13, and 14).

Continued next week...