

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 12:32-40

These eight verses this morning are so packed with the Jewish theology of the day. As a Christian it gives us a fresh perspective to look at this material. So, without further delay lets unpack this like a Hannukah gift.

Remember a few weeks ago we talked about the gender of God. That the Jews preferred God to be masculine because He is the provider of all that we need. This morning Jesus is telling us that the Father wants to give us something else. That item is the Kingdom. That God the Father takes great pleasure out of giving the Kingdom to us. God is always providing us with all that we need. Now it is something very spiritual.

So what is the Kingdom that Jesus is talking about? This is where things can get tricky and may actually work on two levels at the same time. From an Orthodox Jewish perspective, God created us because He needed us. We are to do something for Him. We are to build the

Kingdom here on Earth. We are to build and create a just world for all of God's children and all of creation. This is the lowest of the worlds that God has created and we are to transform it by building the Kingdom here. We are to live in a way that we bring more God like qualities into our world. To the point where God comes and dwells here on Earth amongst us. This is starting to sound like we are to re-create the garden of Eden.

From a Christian perspective we are building the Kingdom now. We are building it with the help of the Holy Spirit. Who continues to inspire, encourage, and guide us in the Kingdom's construction. Building the Kingdom here and now with the Holy Spirit in order to transform the Earth and everything on it. This is a place where every child of God has all their needs met in order to thrive in life. Where everyone will live their lives to the fullest. He came so that we may have life and have it in abundance. All of this without damaging the planet in the process. It seems like a very "Green Plan". This is where our hearts will be and our treasure will rest for generations to come.

Some Christian scholars have commented on the idea of our heart. They claim that it is a deeper spiritual practice. One where we become more aware of the things that we watch, speak or listen to. These things can have an impact on our hearts and our spiritual life when it comes to building the Kingdom. These are the things that take our focus away from our purpose. Keep your eye on the prize. Be aware of the things you watch on Tic- Tok or Facebook. In the past when there

was garbage on T.V. we could shut it off at the remote. Be careful of the things you digest with your eyes and ears.

On another level of this story. Jesus is giving the disciples their marching orders. He tells them what to expect when He sends them out into the world. They are told what to do in order to carry the plan out to completion. Keep in mind that much of it deals with the situation of the day. Do not sell all that you own. God gave you common sense, so use it wisely. We are still building the Kingdom today. Just the faces and the context have evolved.

Let's go to the next level in this story. The idea of being alert and watching. I find it oddly confusing that the Messiah is talking about His return already! He came once before in order to save us from our sins. That we screwed up so bad that He had to come down here and fix it. So is this a clue that we are going to screw it up again? The other option is the Jewish one. That we complete the Kingdom down here and God come to dwell with us. I truly like the Christian concept that we are building the Kingdom with the help of the Holy Spirit. We are not doing it all by ourselves. There is divine help guiding us in this building project. Trust that God has this under control and all things in His hands. The more people we get involved in this the quicker it will proceed.

God wants to give us the Kingdom. It is a spiritual thing that is rooted in the reality of this world. This will transform people's lives and the

entire planet for the better. Keep your focus and your eyes on the prize. Let the Holy Spirit guide you and inspire and encourage you as you play your part in this project. God will be coming back, so behave.

Pastor D