

DENAIR FRIENDS CHURCH

Devotions with Matt

MAY 30, 2020

THE ONE TRUE KING

We are all kings and queens in some way. We rule a certain portion of life around us. We have some dominion or authority in a limited sphere. We like when we are recognized as such and love it when those around us acquiesce to our influence. Yes, we are all kings and queens in some way. But, we are wearing false crowns.

To be a king or a queen means we have some sort of a kingdom. The definition of a kingdom is to have a sphere of control. Maybe it is under the roof of our homes where what we say goes. Maybe it is at our places of work where we have been given some sort of authority- at least from 9 to 5. Maybe it is with our friends as they are happy to agree with us as long as we are buying. Somewhere in this world we have some sort of influence over others and that becomes a kingdom of sorts. But, again, in those little kingdoms we are wearing false crowns.

Besides having some sort of influence in certain spheres, our kingdoms are marked by the characteristics we deem most important. Some kingdoms are marked by the love of money. Some are marked by power. Some are marked by ego, manipulation and coercion. Some by sex. Whatever is most important to the king or queen with a false crown will be most important in their kingdom. When those under the king or queen's influence learn the characteristics of the kingdom, and see that's how these fake monarchs got to power, they long for those things.

Those characteristics get passed on to the subjects and often become the hallmarks of their own little kingdoms. With false crowns come false kingdoms. Even though every one of us has some sort of kingdom, there are only two kingdoms that have any real power. One is the kingdom of Satan. Although he is not as powerful as God, he is more powerful than we are. His kingdom is marked by everything that goes against God's kingdom. The characteristics of Satan's kingdom are sin, evil and suffering. It is marked by ego, selfishness and division. The fruit of his kingdom is fear, hopelessness and hatred. It is everything that is opposed to the Kingdom of God.

The other Kingdom is the only real legitimate Kingdom. It is the Kingdom of the King of Kings. It is the rightful Kingdom with the rightful King in His rightful place. It is a Kingdom marked by everything that belongs to God. It is in His kingdom where our true nature, purpose and value lie. The characteristics of His Kingdom are holiness, goodness and healing. It is marked by sacrifice, love and reconciliation. This Kingdom belongs to the Creator of heaven and earth who set it up, but yet gave His creation free will to decide in which kingdom they would like to live.

Jesus in Matthew 6 teaches us how to pray. He tells us to ask God for His Kingdom to come and for His will to be done here on earth as it is in heaven. This prayer is the cry of a heart who recognizes that they are in the wrong kingdom. That the crowns they have been wearing are false ones. It is a cry out to God from one who recognizes that the kingdom of Satan has caused all the pain and suffering in this world and in their lives. It is a recognition that they have made the wrong choice of kingdom and chose the wrong king. It is a cry for help. It is a cry for change. It is a cry for healing. God, may your Kingdom come and your will be done here is a cry to the end of Satan's kingdom. It is a cry for the end of his power and influence where all injustice, suffering, poverty and death now reign. It is a prayer for God's power and influence to destroy Satan's power and influence in our hearts and in our world.



When Jesus went to the Cross and died for our sins, it was a great invitation back into His Kingdom. It is an invitation for all that was lost to the realm and kingdom of the Evil One to be found and brought back to its rightful place; back to being in the kingdom of God. Back in the Kingdom of The One who created us. Back to The One who loves us and The One who can heal us. Back to The One who is the rightful King. It is an invitation to throw down our false crowns at the feet of the True King. It is to say my kingdom is actually a false kingdom and the fruit of my kingdom without you has caused pain and suffering in my false kingdom. It is an understanding that my kingdom without Jesus was just a part of Satan's kingdom.

To pray God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done here on earth as it is in heaven is to pray with all of our heart that it be so. It is to pray that in my neighborhood, in my county, in my family, in my office, in my church, in my club, in my small group, in my shop, in my staff and in my attitude, beliefs and heart may God be King. May He set up the things and the ways He likes them to be here on earth. It is to pray, may you truly be King of all.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

In Christ,
Matt