The Kingdom of God

On closer inspection we can easily see that the secular world we all live in has a standard entirely different from the standard of the Kingdom of God. Holy Scripture points out some of the world's values that have no place in this Kingdom: "...lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." (2 Timothy 3:2) "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (1 John 2:16)

Because of Adam's fall, man is born in sin through natural birth. He is spiritually dead and has no citizenship in the Kingdom of God. (That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel... having no hope. Ephesians 2:12) If we compare the righteousness of sinful man with **the righteousness of God,** we will see that the difference between them is as great as the distance between heaven and earth.

In the sinful state in which he is born, man cannot possibly enter this eternal Kingdom where there is no sin. (Holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever. Psalm 93:5; And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie. Revelation 21:27)

The Lord Jesus brought the heavenly Kingdom down to earth, so that anyone who hears the Gospel of the Kingdom and firmly resolves to change his life may enter it. (He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:11)

This Kingdom is first and foremost spiritual. Holy Scripture describes it as a place of righteousness, of peace, of love and of joy, the very opposite of the kingdom of darkness in which sinful man lives. (For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Romans 14:17)

The values we find in the Kingdom of God are also found in those who belong to this Kingdom. Scripture describes God as the Lord of righteousness, the Lord of peace and of love. (Just and right is he. Deuteronomy 32:4; First being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace. Hebrews 7:1, 2; God is love. 1 John 4:16)

If we search the Scriptures, we will discover the character traits that define both God and the Lord Jesus. These same traits also define those who will be found worthy to dwell with them. (We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. 1 John 2:6)

One essential thing we must remember is that God is perfect, and so is everything found in the Kingdom of God. Just as God is perfect, so the Law that governs His Kingdom is perfect, and His

ways are perfect too. So we can say without fear of error that everything belonging to the Kingdom of God is perfect, complete in every way. (Your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48; The law of the LORD is perfect. Psalm 19:7; As for God, his way is perfect. Psalm 18:30)

If everything is perfect where God dwells, it goes without saying that sinful man cannot dwell with God unless he reaches the perfection that His eternal Kingdom requires. (Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.)

The Lord Jesus was sent as the ambassador of this Kingdom, with the mission of bringing this "Holy Territory" into our hearts.

He was sent by the heavenly Father to bring lost mankind the things of heaven, the laws that govern it, in order to change our lives according to the standard from above, so that we might be worthy to dwell with the Father for all eternity. (If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:1, 2)

He was sent to make disciples and to teach them to live by these laws of the heavenly Kingdom, so that by keeping them we may all come unto the measure of the stature of His fulness. (I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also. Luke 4:43)

Then these disciples were sent into all the world, to make other disciples in their turn and to enrol in the school of Christ all who wish to enter it. (Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20)

This school of disciples has one single aim: that the disciple should become like his Teacher. (The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. Luke 6:40)

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