

THE KINGDOM – DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

MATTHEW 19:16-26

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And someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” 17 And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” 18 Then he said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS; 19 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” 20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

*23 And Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” 25 When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, “**Then who can be saved?**” 26 And looking at them Jesus said to them, “**With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**”*

I want to come back to this verse I touched on last week for just a moment. I was stirred in prayer this week back to this verse. As I began to meditate on this exchange that just occurred with Jesus and His disciples. Begins with the exchange of the Rich Young Ruler...but what follows is even more fascinating. When the disciples hear what Jesus says they just bluntly exclaim -**who then can be saved?**

Now this was because they of course were convinced that in **God’s Kingdom the Rich had a special place.** That to really enter the Kingdom of God you would be a person of wealth. Now we touched on the stereotype that the disciples had ingrained in their heart. But what we did not look closely at is faith system of their heart.

Consider this - the Man who said I am the I AM - the one they watched raise people from the dead, heal the sick, cast out spirits and provide for multitudes....**that Man was standing in front of them and they ask - Who can be saved?**

- **Really exposed their unbelief** - so Jesus says *with man this is impossible but with God all things are possible.*

Now again we have all too often taken this verse and placed in on plaques and posters as a source of encouragement about the idea that there are things that could be possible...**outside the realm that we have often known.**

- But Jesus makes something clear not only that God can do anything....
- But He has just begun to expose the unbelief of their heart....and invites them on a journey...friends you don’t have to bow to the god of wealth when the source of all things is with you!
- His Kingdom is altogether other than and is not limited the measures of man.

God can do anything....of course we are all going to agree with that statement....but do we have the same unbelief in our heart – that would say – who can be saved?

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.
Col 1:27b JB Phillips

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Think about the things that move us to Prayer...

- Financial instability.....sudden and unexpected needs.....
- Physical instability - the diagnosis that leaves us completely shaken....
- Relational instability -
- Social instability -
- Educational instability.....
- Environmental instability.....fires, floods, tornados....

I could go on and on.....my point is that often it is our perceived crisis.....'if I loose this...' I don't know what my life will be like....

- My job
- My health
- My home

As I thought about this it occurred to me that I perhaps am not a whole lot unlike the disciples as I pray for my own needs and the needs of the culture around me.....**convinced that if God is going to 'show up' in our day and time He will have to fix the mess.....**

God look at our economic mess, our political mess, our educational mess, our health care.... they have all become gods that we bow down.....the unbelief is IN us beloved!

When God took His people out of Egypt He did not take them Ex 13:17-18

*did not lead them by the way of the Philistines, **even though it was near**; for God said 'The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.' Hence God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea: and the sons of Israel went up **in martial array** from the land of Egypt.*

Now as has often been pointed out this bears repeating....**God took His people who were not a people and made them a people...**

- Slaves for 400 years....all they had ever known or understood....and as slaves all they really understood were the gods of Egypt.
- **So the point of the wilderness was not to accomplish more than removing His people from Egypt and slavery but to remove slavery and Egypt from their hearts!**
- 10 plagues.....**represented all that was life in Egypt the most powerful and dominant force of the land. Read**

And so we read Moses in his intercession with the Father pointing out that what had distinguished them from all the peoples of the earth was that God was with them. His Presence!

The later part of Hosea 2:23b

*And I will say to those who were not My people,
'You are My people!'
And they will say, 'You are my God!'"*

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Now this bears mentioning....did they govern - yes, did they care for the needy - yes, did they educate yes.....**but it was all a reflection of the Presence in their midst.**

- **You are my God - not the gods of Egypt**

Jesus is standing in front of His friends who ask who can be saved? Really?

- It is possible when you come to this revelation - You are my God and nothing else!
- Doing the Impossible is a Surrender issue - Making sense?

Consider the small gods of this age that form culture - that set the pace of life and are without doubt the chief sources of stress in our life....

Health Care - Caring for the needy, the poor, the orphan and the widow was God's idea....virtually every hospital in our area was started by the Church...**but look what they have become?**

- **Palaces to Sickness!** How much of our life revolves around making sure they have told us if we are well or not well?
- Consider how much fear is stirred when we are told we are not well.

Education - what again was mostly started by the Church - Denise and I were struck by the reality again that IU was started by the State as a Seminary!

- Because at one time in our history men and women could not disconnect Wisdom apart from the Wisdom of God!
- And now beloved Education has become a god in almost every circle! Denise will be speaking next month at a Church in town - and while her credentials are not what got her the invitation for some it matters a great deal to know she is educated. Yet the message that she will carry will not be about the wisdom of man but the Wisdom of knowing God's heart!

Government - was and is established by God to serve people - its in the book!

- Beloved I have stood on the floor of the congress and looked straight at the bust that faces the Speaker of the House - eyes fixed towards the podium - no Speaker or President could have missed it. All along the perimeter of the House are the busts of great lawmakers through history but the center bust is of the Great Law Giver Moses - who received his law from God!
- Yet today government has become a god unto itself self serving self promoting and overflowing with agendas that do not serve people but special interests.

Economy - God established that a man should work for his labor but as well NOT take advantage of the weak or powerless.

- A free market as we have known it in the west has a basis of success when people matter more than profit. Yet profit has become a god.
- Over and over throughout history to this very day we see that when Profit is the primary motive for the market people are used abused and broken in the process.

I could unpack this for virtually everyone of areas that form our culture Arts and Entertainment, the Media even organized religion **that has rather than serving God has become a god unto itself. That demands the attention and affections of the heart.**

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Here is the deal we have all had this wrestle to some degree or another - we all have a bent to become Idol worshipper's. **How do I know?**

- Well again what are the things that cause your heart to be gripped with fear?
- The perceived lack of provision, health, future of the government....what is being portrayed in the media?

How do you know if you have landed here?

- When you find your heart saying - **that is impossible!**
- And the Limitless God of Eternity is dwelling in your heart.....inviting all of us on a journey of Repentance and Faith.....**the one who said Nothing is impossible....is IN you!**

As a survivor of trauma in my life - I have a tendency to emotionally go to the worst case scenario and accept it. And move on....

- Yet the invitation of Jesus to His friends was so PROFOUND.....
- **That very thing you are thinking is Impossible....I want you to go and proclaim....Repent and believe...the Kingdom is here!**

Exodus 3

- Moses has an encounter with this burning bush.....that calls him by name....to which Moses says here I am.....The word for I am is a connection to his identity....this is whom I represent
- God invites him on a journey....of deliverance for His people....that at this point all they have known of themselves is that they are slaves....
- **As Moses listens he presents several objections.....finally asking who will I say has sent me?**

God said to Moses verse 14

- *'I AM WHO I AM' tell the children of Israel....I AM has sent me to you. I AM -*
- the one who was and iseternity bound up in this description...but also this powerful reality - **the Power to Become.** Which is why John says the word BECAME flesh....

God declares to Moses when I am with you I will take you who are NOT a people and make you a people....**I will be the one who will give you the Power to Become!**

What is Impossible with man is Possible with God - to Become the People of God upon the earth!

- **Beloved that is called the Kingdom of God upon the Earth....**

So what does all this mean?

1. Confused Conclusions come way to easy!

We tend to make gods out of what was intended to Serve God!

- Read the first 3 chapters of the book of Hosea!
- Hosea marry's a harlot - he cares and provides for her all the while she is living with these other lovers.
- Her conclusion is riveting in Hosea 2:5....when she said *"I will go after my lovers, who give me bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink."*

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- She was utterly confused - much like men women boys and girls today!
- She said I have to give my time attention and affections to those who are taking care of me.
When it was the very person she was ignoring that was giving her all of those very things.

So we have all of these not so subtle messages being pushed towards us day and day out.....

- Good health care is what gives us well being
- Good job is what is providing for our financial needs
- And with it all the misplaced loyalty.....**beloved Freedom did not come from the constitution of the United States but from the Cross!**

Provision does not come from Wall Street

Health does not come from Medicine - but from God beloved!

How easy it is to make a god our of what was intended to Serve God.....

Basis of repentance is to change our Mind - to begin in this place.

- I have what I have and all that I have experienced as a result of the abundance of God.

When our hearts are confused we arrive much like the disciples....at the wrong conclusions....who can be saved? That can't happen.....with mancorrect **but with God all things are possible.**

Our Confusion ends in the place of repentance!

2. Compassionate Crushing is the Kindness of God in our life!

- In the book of Hosea God said to His people who were acting like Hosea's wife....
- God's response was simple - I will hem her in and draw her with kindness.
- **That came through God crushing the very things** they had come to trust in apart from Him!

Jesus simply called it the Cross!

- I love the way a good friend said it to me this week - **its the Wreckage!**

Compassionate Crushing beloved....

- Is the woman who looked at me towards the end of her life and said why did it take illness for me to realize all of life is about getting to know Him?
- Why did I waste so much of my life on things that did not matter?

Compassionate Crushing

- Is watching the faces of individuals who return to find nothing but ash's and rubble of their 'dream home' following a fire.
- So much of what they have been told matters in life in a literal ash heap.

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I wonder sometimes if we do not need to rethink the way we interpret what is occurring in the world around us...

- **The Crushing Diagnosis we want to go away.....**
- The financial defeat.....
- The sudden loss....
- The impending collapse of a society.....

Can the Kingdom survive apart from a free democratic society?

- Well that is exactly how it was birthed!
- ***The Valley of Achor I will turn into a door of Hope Hosea 2:15!***

In the Crushing the Compassionate invitation of God is to Repent....

3. To Clarity of Confession - “ You are my God’

- **You are the only One worthy of my attention and affections!**

With you All things are possible!

- God You CAN birth the Kingdom in 2016 in the midst of a world in Chaos and collapse!

This became my passionate prayer this week!

- God you CAN do anything!
- Release Kingdom economics, government, education, health.....

I want to close with a simple invitation today....

- **What god am I bowing toward?**
- **What is it that is causing me to stress and be restless?**

Your invitation is to join this simple proclamation - You are my King!

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