

***SOUTHWEST ASSEMBLY OF GOD***  
***THE FOCUS OF THE KINGDOM***  
***MATTHEW 6:10, 6:33***

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I was do some reading very early one morning this past week from a devotional on my phone. The topic was repentance - and the author made a statement something like this about repentance.

That our Action is to repent - and that our Action brings the immediate ReAction from God - Forgiveness. Sounds about right - **but the longer I pondered this presentation is that it is not Scriptural...**

**My Action of repentance does not secure forgiveness.....**

- **God's Action on the Cross secured my forgiveness....**
- **And He did that long before I ever even recognized my need.....**

The Truth of this model is this

- **His Action is what brings my ReAction - call repentance.....**
- **It is His loving-kindness that brings us to repentance.....**

Mark 1:15

*The Time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel*

**His Action was a Call to ReAction - called Repentance.....**

We need the right focus in the Kingdom.....

- The former model I talked about?
- My action brings His reaction....sets the wrong model
- What if I am not repentant enough?

**It begins to set a model for how we understand the Nature of the Kingdom of God....**

- and then we have books written that focus on our how our Actions can bring the ReAction of God in our life....
- And you can have your best life....now.....

**But if this begins with My Actions.....who is the King of this Kingdom.....?**

- It really is true that there is real confusion about the Kingdom.....
- and if we are convinced that it began and continues based on my Actions....where is my Focus....

**Remember the Story of the Prodigal in Luke 15?**

- This father who has two sons....the younger who asks for his inheritance and squanders it....until he hires himself to a farmer....and becomes so hungry that he is eating the very food that he is giving to the pigs he was hired to care for....

**And Verse 17 says he came to his senses....realizing at his fathers house....the hired hands had more than enough eat and he was starving....**

**So this son repents 'change of mind' and he returns to his father with an image of hope in his heart**

- **I am not worthy to be a son but I can do what I am doing here...I can be a hired hand....**
- **and so he returns....with repentance and resolve...**

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*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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**I am not worthy - I do not deserve to be called your son....will you make me your hired hand?**

- This is pretty impressive - no excuses - owning both the weight of his actions and their real implication - a son does not behave in this manner.

**He has concluded what any repentant person would conclude....forgiveness is one thing....but it does not return what was lost by the betrayal of my behavior.....**

**Interestingly this is how MANY if not MOST of us would react.....isn't it?**

- His Action was repentance and a proper assessment of his behavior.....after all trust is earned....
- and so most of us have in Luke 15 a chapter heading over verses 11-32 like my Bible that read **The Prodigal Son....**

**The first definition of Prodigal** ( by the way that word is NOT used in text - the word used in verse 13 is loose living)

- spending money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant.

**But there is a second definition of Prodigal found in the dictionary**

- having or giving something on a lavish scale.

**Now Jesus describes the Prodigal Father.....**

- who is a picture of our Heavenly Father....He is describing this definition....

**Luke 15:20 - The Father.....an older man.....**

- look at verse 20....His Father...
  - Saw him....his son....(not a hired hand).
  - Felt compassion....betrays His heart doesn't it.....?
  - Ran....the father ran....eastern culture....this was an act of humiliation....pull up his cloak...and run...
  - Threw his arms around him.....
  - In case anyone thought this was a show....he kissed him...

**To be clear - he is NOT**

- **waiting arms crossed - Not rehearsing - not patronizing - Not degrading.....allowing his son to feel the disgust of the hurt he had caused.....**

vs 21 – the son

***I am not worthy to be called your son....***

vs 22 – the Father....did you say something....?

- I love the way the Message translation reads.....'he wasn't listening...'
- Quickly.....
- Robe, ring,sandals.....

**The Fathers deepest passion in NOT to correct his son but get him Restored to his rightful Identity...as his son....**

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**My Question - in Luke 15 of Jesus parable -**

- What was the source of the Fathers Forgiveness?
  - Sons remorse and repentance
  - The Fathers Love.....

Unfortunate for many Jesus followers.....they still interpret the Gospel from the lens of the son.....

- I cannot tell you the number of times I have heard this said I don't deserve....to be forgiven or blessed by God....
- **The Gospel beloved began and continues in the heart of our Lavish Prodigal Father!**

Mark 1:15

His Action is a call for our ReAction - to repent - to change our mind He really is that lavish He really has restore us as sons and daughters.....!

**Beloved Kingdom Focus that Jesus talks about in Matthew 6**

**Is about living as one Focused on the real Nature of the Gospel of the Kingdom!**

2 Passages in Matthew 6 - Verse 10 and 33

- *Your Kingdom Come Your will be done on earth as it is Heaven.*
- *Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well.*

**So if the Action - Mark 1:15 is that the Kingdom has come....**

**Matthew 6 is an invitation to live with a repentant focus upon that Action....**

Matthew 6

- Jesus describes those who have seen Prayer as Action they have to do to 'get God'....
- Jesus says...no Prayer is really about your ReAction to what I have already done....*your Heavenly Father knows what you need....you are not making Him aware!*

**The word for Prayer here**

- Proskuneo.....word that we get part of the word prostrate ourselves.....point is that prostrate is an act of surrender....

**Surrender of my will to His....when you Pray.....*pray in this way...***

**1 - Your Kingdom Come.....**

- I am asking for Your Kingdom....not mine.....in prayer I am being reminded this is about this King and His rule and reign....

Luke 11 - Jesus disciples ask Jesus *'teach us to pray like Johns taught his disciples'*

John 17:7....*they have come to know that everything You have given en Me is from You....*

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**Luke 11 - Lords prayer followed by this parable...**

- verse 5 suppose one of you has a friend come....and he then goes to his friend....with this statement....
- ***...I have nothing.....***
- Do you know one of the greatest hindrances to the Church in the West?
- We have not been convinced ..... ‘we have nothing’ .....

And too often confessing followers of Jesus who believe in the Kingdom of Heaven....

- Faced with needs and issues we cannot respond....
- but we live from the means and values system of an earthly Kingdom.....
- Sick.....seek a doctor.....can't see solutions so we look for them....

**It is sooo hard for us to live with this ReAction.....I have nothing.....**

- But look at verse 8 in Luke 11
- ***Because of His persistence.....***( shamelessly )

When we pray ***Your Kingdom come....***

- We are asking for the Rule of the King to take its rightful place in our life and the life of those we are praying for.....
- **I have nothing...but you are a King and you have everything.....Jesus come....now we are not saying come like it is not present....**

**We are praying come and take the place of another....word means....**

**Kingdom focus - Your Kingdom Come**

**2 Your Will be Done....**

**Be done = Ginomai = come into being!**

- **On Earth as it is in Heaven...**
- as it is.....beloved it already exists....in Heaven

**What makes Heaven - Heaven....not location or starry host.....but that God is there!**

- John gives us some of those pictures in Rev 4-5..
- The perfect provision, justice and abundance of this God dwells there!

**as it IS....Action is Rev 4-5.....focus.....ReAction let that be birthed here now!**

Luke 18

Jesus told a parable of the persistent widow....*when He was teaching His disciples that they ought to pray at all times and not give up.....!*

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Picture of this widow who is following this judge...and by law she was allowed to 'hound' him to work and from work....and the word that is used by Jesus ....was that she was relentless...

- She was by the original word....placing her finger in the eye of the judge....hutzpah

**Jesus invitation.....I want you to pray as it is in Heaven.....God bring Justice....**

- Relentless....hutzpah.....keep coming.....

When he taught them they ought to pray at all times and not give up is because He knew that the temptation would be to 'give up'....

**God You are the Action....of justice provision abundance....**

- **our ReAction - keep coming and asking as it is in Heaven - let it be on earth.....**
  - Not a better version of what I now have...
  - Not the way things used to be...
  - But as it is in Heaven....

Beloved the Action is already occurring in this place called the Kingdom - as it is in Heaven....Heaven is not some mystical passive place.....real King seated at the right hand of God...all Kings will one day bow to that King....

**Kingdom Focus.....begins there.....not here....**

little wonder why Jesus when talking about 'Worry' in Matthew 6.....

*Look at the birds of the air...the lilies of the field....DO NOT WORRY about your life!*

**3 - vs 33 Seek First the Kingdom and His Righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well.....**

- Here is the thing when we interpret this verse from the idea that my Action brings His ReAction.....we get it all messed up....
- If I just keep first things first - I will be blessed.....
- Beloved I can rehearse loads of folks who had first things first and went hungry, had need indeed lost their life....

**Vs 33 is not a formula for a care free life....**

- **Action - is the King and His Kingdom - and the Glory of that King....**
- My ReAction is to make a binding terminal resolution.....life is about This King and His Glory....
- **Everything else is secondary...and hence not things I need to worry about.....**

So Paul says.....I had a lot and little.....I was beaten left for dead....I can do all things.....

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**The words in Red - Jesus who said Matt 6:33 to which many have wrongly concluded this is the formula for a care free abundant life....**

Matthew 24 just a bit later in verses 9-12...said this

*9 They will hand you over to your enemies, who will torture you and then kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me. 10 And many who have followed Me and claimed to love Me and sought God's kingdom will turn away—they will abandon the faith and betray and hate one another. 11-12 The love that they had for one another will grow cold because few will obey the law. False prophets will appear, many will be taken in by them, and the only thing that will grow is wickedness. There will be no end to the increase of wickedness.*

**Beloved to Seek First the Kingdom is NOT Risk Free!**

- In fact it is quite the opposite.....
- *You will be handed over.....*

John Piper

*One of my aims is to explode the myth of safety and to somehow deliver you from the enchantment of security. Because it's a mirage. It doesn't exist. Every direction you turn there are unknowns and things beyond your control. ...The Christian life is a call to risk. Jesus made this clear. He said, for example in Luke 21:16, 'You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death.' The key word here is some. This word puts the earthly life of the disciples in great uncertainty. Not all will die for the cause of Christ. But not all will live either. ...This is what I mean by risk. It is the will of God that we be uncertain about how life on this earth will turn out for us. And therefore it is the will of the Lord that we take risks for the cause of God." "Don't Waste Your Life", p. 86*

**The ultimate prize for the Christian is NOT Peaceful existence that's free from suffering, pain, sacrifice, and uncertainty.... It is the advancement of God's Kingdom and the Display of His Righteousness in our lives!**

**Beloved the Action of God is that who He is and His Glory would be made known upon the earth.....**

- My Reaction is to Seek His Kingdom.....
- Does not mean I will not do without.....

Correct conclusion of Matt 6:33 John Piper

"I will give you everything you need to Glorify me on the earth"

**Action - Kingdom - as a King**

**Reaction - Repent in my life and lifestyle before that King.**

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