



2. On Earth as it is in Heaven

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO

Apart from the ultimate reason of giving eternal life that I shared in my previous video titled “Palpable Proximity,” there are many reasons why Jesus coming to the earth is a “Joy to the World.”

Let me pick another reason which is hidden in the prayer He taught His disciples to pray, popularly known as “The Lord’s Prayer.” Yes, the prayer that begins with the very familiar words, “Our Father, who art in heaven.” In this prayer Jesus asks us to pray, “*Thy Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.*”

Jesus’s coming to this world helped us understand how God’s kingdom principles can rule on earth as it does in heaven. That is not just a matter of joy, but is a matter of great joy to this world.

As Jesus walked this earth as a human, His life gives a preview of how God’s kingdom – in heaven – can operate on earth. The three essential ingredients for God’s kingdom we learn from Jesus’ manifesto found in the “Sermon on the Mount” are love, justice and peace. When these are lived out the right way, the result would be the ‘the joy of the Lord’ to this world.

The words, love, justice and peace have been overused so much that it they have lost much of their original power. But, what Jesus call restore these ideas by raising the bar once again on what they mean in Chapters 5 to 7 Matthew’s gospel. His principles are as counter cultural and revolutionary today as they were when He first preached it. Here are some examples and comments from me on the. As you hear them try to how different the world we live in would be if we followed it.

1. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matt 5:44) Can you imagine what would happen to your heart and attitude towards the persons you dislike, if you regularly prayed for their well-being? From my experience, I know it is not easy. But, this simple act changes my whole behavior and feeling for those persons. Try it out and be assured you will experience on earth, the kind of love that exists in heaven.

2. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. (5:38-40) To many these statements seem imply that we should not to take any actions against our aggressors. This is far from the truth. What it advocates is not to take matters or law into our own hands and avenge ourselves. But, rather to trust God to handle it. It is based on God’s statement that ‘vengeance is mine.’ (Rom 12:17-19)

Jesus exemplified how this is lived out when He did not respond when He was unlawfully struck twice on His face during His trial. Again, a very difficult principle to swallow and a command to follow. But, this is the kind of justice that rules in the kingdom of God.

3. Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (5:28)

This needs no explanation but imagine how dramatically the number of rape cases and sexual abuse would fall around the world. If only the world could understand how dehumanizing adultery is, and followed Jesus' advice, both the victims and the perpetrators would experience the love and peace of heaven on earth. By the way, this includes doing it virtually online.

Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (6:25; 33) I think this one is the most difficult for most of us. For many of us, if we follow this command, we will free up the several hours in a day that are spent worrying about such things!! This is the peace of mind that exists in God's kingdom that passes all understanding. By trusting God to provide, this can be ours.

These are just a sample of Jesus' rules for living that can bring heaven – God's kingdom to earth. Remember heaven is a place of “no mores” as John writes in Revelation 21:4 “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be **no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying**. There shall be **no more pain**.” Can we help make this “no more” a reality

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