

# **KINGDOM PEOPLE**

Charles Shenk

July 9, 2006

Matt. 4:19

Matt. 25:31-46

Matt. 4:19 *Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how"*

The Message translation (to become kingdom people – my words)

There is always a danger of being misunderstood when you want to develop a theme. I'm talking about God's Kingdom. God sent His son, Jesus to tell us about this new kingdom. It was going to be different then the kingdom of Israel. We must know Jesus if we are going to be citizens of God's kingdom. So let me make it clear that I do not believe in salvation by works. We do not become citizens of this Kingdom by doing good.

I want to affirm Gal. 2:8&9

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith---and this not from Yourself, it is the gift of God---not by works, so that no one can boast.*

I also believe just as strongly James 2: 14-18 (True citizens do good works)

*What good is it my friends, if a person claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by actions, is dead.*

This brings me back to my text: ---"Come with me, I'll show you how (to be Kingdom people---My own words)

What did Jesus teach and model for his disciples?

Jesus taught the way of salvation (example-John 3 His encounter with Nicodemus)

Jesus also taught how kingdom people live.

Let's take a look at the 3 chapters in Matt. 5,6 & 7

Love for enemies

1. Giving to the needy
2. Not judging others
3. Good trees bear good fruit
4. He talks about being peace makers

However a major part of the Gospels is a recording of Jesus modeling Kingdom living.

1. He touched and healed the man with leprosy. Matt. 8:1-3
2. He visited and healed the sick (Peter's Mother-in-law) Mk.1:29
3. He comforted and mourned with grieving families John 11
4. Mary and Martha with the death of Lazarus (Jesus wept)
5. He comforted the discouraged – The road to Emmaus. Luke 24
6. He responded to hunger (fed 5000) Matt. 14
7. He broke down racial barriers (the Samaritan woman) John 4
8. He celebrated family events (the wedding at Cana) John 2
9. He took care of himself with retreats and prayer. Mark 1:35
10. He confronted evil and hypocrisy (temple cleansing) Luke 19
11. He was ready to die for truth

And so we come to Matt.25:31-46.

*When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.*

*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:*

*I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.'*

*Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'*

*Then he will turn to the 'goats,' the ones on his left, and say, 'Get out, worthless goats! You're good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—*

*I was hungry and you gave me no meal,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,  
I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,  
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.'*

*Then those 'goats' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn't help?'*

*He will answer them, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.'*

*Then those 'goats' will be herded to their eternal doom, but the 'sheep' to their eternal reward.*

I'm bringing this message to you this morning for two reasons.

1. to encourage you as a congregation to be Kingdom people
2. to affirm you in the work you are already doing as Kingdom people

I close this message by inviting you to pray with me The prayer of Assai, Number 733 in the Hymnal.

#### Prayer of Assai

Lord, - make me an instrument of your peace.

where there is hatred, let me so love; - - - where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith; - - - where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light - - - where there is sadness joy.

O divine Master, - grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand; - - - to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. AMEN