

### Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

I believe the Body of Christ is on the edge of the greatest revival ever

If we are going to be a part of this revival, we must have a desire for "more" and an understanding of the culture that will usher it in and maintain it.

More miracles, healings, deliverance, glory, power, more ministries and churches planted, more of the presence of God

### Mark 16:16–18 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

- Jesus never meant for miracles to be an end in themselves
- He meant for them to be an invitation into The Kingdom of Heaven

In our churches we find people that can identify with one or both of the brothers in the story of the Prodigal

Sent Ones:

John 17:18, 20 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> As You **sent** Me into the world, I also have **sent** them into the world.

<sup>20</sup> “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

When Jesus promoted His disciples from learners to leaders, He didn't call them patriarchs or priests, He called them **apostles** (*sent*)

- We do not all hold the office of Apostle, but we are all sent – *Ephesians 4:11, 12 (some, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry)*
- We are all sent ones!
- Movements never define people
- People define movements

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- We are now a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation
- Called to proclaim the goodness of God

Most of us have no idea who we are or what we are supposed to do with our lives

- We think the more we learn and the more educated we get will somehow lead us to our identity
- Identity doesn't come from education it comes from impartation
- You can't educate yourself into your identity
- Proper identity comes from the impartation of our heavenly Father

We are living in a new Kingdom with a new identity

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

- Before we received Christ, we were called “sinners”
- We were prone to sin
- When we received Christ, we became “saints”
- See Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1
- The word saint means, “holy believer”
- You can't be a sinner and a saint at the same time
- How can you be prone to sin and still be a holy believer?
- The word “sinner” implies that we are prone to do wrong
- What we believe about ourselves is what we act out of

Proverbs 23:7 – “as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

If we believe we are still sinners, we will not be able to access the grace we need to live as a saint

- We will still try to perform good works in order to merit forgiveness
- As saints, our nature has changed

Plenty of churches are teaching people how to be good, but few are inspiring people to greatness

- Some people believe that if you aspire to greatness that you will become proud
- True biblical humility is compatible with confidence, strength and every aspect of greatness
- Humility is not only compatible with greatness; it is the process of significance

### Matthew 23:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

- According to Jesus the act of humility is the pathway to promotion
- Jesus was not criticizing greatness He was encouraging it and showing us how to achieve it

Jesus is the model of true humility as well as strength and greatness

## Philippians 2:7, 9-11 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Being exalted means being raised high
- In the Kingdom humility is designed to raise us up to our rightful position

Often the church emphasizes humility but doesn't emphasize the promise that comes from true humility

- Humility should be part of our core values
- However, we also need to embrace the greatness that is promised at the end of the process
- When Jesus submitted to the process of humility, He was given the reward that was intended
- Many Christians have a problem with thinking that God intends to reward us
- This is not consistent with what the Bible teaches

## Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- As God promotes and exalts us there are attributes of true humility that must become part of our nature

Here are some important characteristics of true humility

- We must remain teachable and influenceable
- We have to be able to receive correction without defending ourselves
- We must rejoice when others are celebrated
- No job can be too small for us
- We don't have to always be right
- We should naturally seek the advice of others
- We actually do pray and not just talk about it
- Freely admit our flaws, mistakes and failures
- Live our lives to help others succeed
- Not be easily offended
- Maintain a thankful attitude
- Refuse to live with a sense of entitlement, thinking someone owes us something
- Be quick to forgive and not hold grudges
- Be content with who we are, as well as who we're not

I've noticed something in common about the disciples is that they all wanted to be great in the Kingdom

- They even fought about who Jesus' favorite was
- There's something about the presence of Jesus that causes you to dream big, and do something great
- The Kingdom of heaven has taken normal people and produced heroes time and time again

If the church is going to be a place where mighty men and women can be trained, equipped and sent out, we need leaders like Jesus

- Jesus' supreme confidence in His identity as the Son of God enabled Him to call out sonship in His disciples

We see the same kind of leadership in the life of king David as well

- David knew His identity in God long before He sat on the throne
- While on the run from Saul his leadership raised up a band of rejects and turned them into a band of warriors
- If we are going to see more of the Kingdom released, we must establish our identity in God
- We need to hang out with Jesus and pick up some of the same vision that His disciples experienced

Jesus isn't looking for a bunch of followers that only serve Him  
He wants to impart Kingdom culture into the lives of true sons and daughters

## John 15:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

In His friendship with the disciples Jesus didn't just tell them what to think, He taught them how to think

- He didn't keep them on the sidelines
- They had permission to ask questions
- He gave them power and authority to do what He was doing and get feedback
- He then told them, as well as us to do greater things

The Kingdom has always had reward attached to it

- David killed Goliath so that he could marry the king's daughter
- The Israelites left Egypt to obtain a Promised Land

Jesus Himself left heaven to achieve His greatest victory and the reward attached to it

## Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Reward is the driving motivation of our faith

### Revelation 22:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.

- The gospels’ parables of the ten talents, the ten minas and the sower are all about working for reward

The truth is when we do something awesome on earth, God is the loudest one to celebrate

- I can just hear Him saying:
  - Whose son is that
  - That kid sure takes after his Father
  - That girl is amazing!
- God expects us to imitate Him!

### Ephesians 5:1 (NKJV)

Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children.

We were created in His image and we are commanded to become Christlike

- There is nothing too noble to reach for
- Too awesome to believe for
- Too powerful to hope for
- Too excellent to live for
- We are children of the King!

In a Kingdom that celebrates success, enjoys promotion and reward we must guard our hearts against jealousy

### James 3:14–16 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

- Jealousy is the evil adversary of greatness
- It begins as a selfish sin

It can grow into a monster that can give place to demonic spirits and wreak havoc in the core of our very being

Saul and David returning from their most famous battle is a great example of how jealousy works

### 1 Samuel 18:6–12 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Now it had happened as they were coming *home*, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. <sup>7</sup> So the women sang as they danced, and said: “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *only* thousands. Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?” <sup>9</sup> So Saul eyed David from that day forward. <sup>10</sup> And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there was* a spear in Saul’s hand. <sup>11</sup> And Saul cast the spear, for he said, “I will pin David to the wall!” But David escaped his presence twice. <sup>12</sup> Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul.

- David was Saul’s spiritual son
- He had just killed Goliath, eliminating the greatest threat in Israel’s history
- Instead of celebrating David’s victory, he became jealous and suspicious of David
- This infected Saul’s soul which attracted evil spirits of insanity and murder
- They tormented him into trying to destroy David

You see this pattern throughout the Bible

- Cain murdered Abel
- Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery
- The disciples were in a perpetual state of competition  
– **Mark 10:35; Luke 9:46**

We can not get away from the temptation of becoming jealous in a Kingdom of reward and celebration, however there is a prescription for jealousy

Jesus fostered a culture that potentially fostered jealousy

- He took only Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration – **Mark 9:1-4**
- When He raised the synagogue official's daughter from the dead, he put everyone out except the same three guys – **Mark 5:37**
- When He was stressed out before His crucifixion, He only invited the same three guys

Although the disciples fought among themselves for prominence, Jesus did nothing to dispel their envy of one another, but continued to favor the same three guys

- Jesus refused to change the circumstances to deal with their character issues
- His prescription:

**Matthew 18:1–4 (NKJV)**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”<sup>2</sup> Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,<sup>3</sup> and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.<sup>4</sup> Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.