

True 21st Century Disciples of Jesus

By David Drew

Firstly, two scriptures: One from Jesus, one from the prophet Isaiah.

“But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God, and all these things will be given to you also.” Matthew 6:33 Amplified

“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His Kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgement and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” Isaiah 9:7 Amplified

Further down in this article is a word from the Lord for us all concerning Kingdom and Spirit, but first let me emphasize some points.

1. True 21st century disciples of Jesus need to be just like the first century disciples and followers of Jesus; of *one heart and one mind*... having Jesus’ heart and mind, led by the *Spirit of God*.
2. True disciples of Jesus must be baptised (immersed) in *Holy Spirit* to be able to achieve God’s *Kingdom* purposes, as was the early Church after the Day of Pentecost.
3. True disciples need to strive for God’s *Kingdom* and righteousness, His way of being and doing right.
4. True disciples must turn from tradition and all that “seems right” in man’s eyes, and embrace a *Kingdom* that is eternal and is increasing! This is wise. Solomon said the beginning of wisdom is to get wisdom. This is particularly appropriate right now in view of the increasing darkness pervading the earth.

Jesus Shocking Message to His First Disciples

(Just as relevant for Jesus’ true disciples today)

When you read the words of Jesus below, I think you will agree that there will probably not be many preachers using this as their text this week, or any week. This is the way in our current “age of enlightenment” where a lot of preaching is aimed at meeting people’s perceived “needs and wants.” This is not to say no one is preaching Jesus’ message, as I know there are still faithful men and women serving in the “Churchianity” who could well be doing so.

Having said that, we should be asking ourselves today, why it is that not many are preaching as Jesus taught and preached? Jesus our Lord and Master taught what you are about to read, His Apostles lived it, and they faithfully recorded it for future generations because of its

importance. (Praise the Lord for them! Where would we be if it were not for the precious Word of God being honoured, kept and preserved?)

Jesus' Word

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." Matthew 7:13-20

The Evolution of "Churchianity"

Jesus' exhortation above was about being wise of foolish, right?

It's the foolish who will have a lot to answer for on Judgement Day. The wise will have built their "house" on the Rock and will hear the Master's voice saying, "well done good and faithful servant."

Many however, would protest about what I'm about to say. They would want to remind me of all the good current churches are doing, and that people they are getting "saved." And, "look at how many people are attending, thousands of people going to church. Look at the mega-churches getting 20,000 – 30,000 people. Isn't it wonderful!"

What has evolved in Churchianity is a different Church to the Church Jesus founded. So different, that there is almost no similarity. Churchianity today, is all about building large corporations who use Christianity as their reason for existing. A lot of it has become a giant marketing exercise to increase numbers (and income) with little concern about the spiritual state of those turning up. It's about getting "bums on seats" to put it crudely. The more people who come will keep the money rolling in so we can pay the mortgage, keep the machine running, and pay the wages of all the staff we need to keep the people happy and content. It's a business! (I do know there are some exceptions to this).

Look at the plethora of Telethon-type TV promotions ("in order to keep us on the air") that are popping up more and more. Talk about manipulation. Some of those I've seen recently are of the highest forms of manipulation I've ever seen. Even greater than what secular advertisers would do, or be allowed to do, in their claims to sell their goods and services!

Some recent examples of the type of things said in the last few days on a "Christian" Telethon lasting 10 days and nights (24 hours a day).

"Give now so your wayward children will be saved, give your most generous gift now then God will give you that house you've always dreamed of... give now so you can be healed... give your best gift now and get that job promotion... whatever it is you want or need, send your best gift now so that God can be released to give you what's on your heart!" Don't delay! Give now! God WILL bless you when you give to God's work! Just look at what we are accomplishing! Partner with us and our reward from heaven will be yours as well!

"And many will say to Jesus in the Judgement, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"
Matthew 7:22-23

Who will these people be in the Judgement?

Won't it be those who "peddle" the gospel?

Look what Apostle Paul said. Paul by his own admission, a "chief sinner," saved by grace, and one who probably (through revelation not direct contact) understood the heart of Jesus more than anyone who has ever lived.

“For we are not like many, acting like merchants peddling God’s word short-changing and adulterating God’s message; but from pure uncompromised motives, as commissioned and sent from God, we speak His message in Christ in the sight of God.
2 Corinthians 2:17 Amplified

I would not want to be one of the “peddlers” standing before the Judge on Judgement Day! It would be better for them if they had stayed home and done nothing. Their judgement will be stricter because they dared to do what they did, in Christ’s name.

The Final Call

Jesus is calling us *to come home where we belong* and there are two points He has laid on my heart to share with you.

1. The role of Holy Spirit
2. The role of the Kingdom

Neither the Holy Spirit nor the Kingdom of God requires any hype or manipulation by man to be able to manifest in full power.

“It’s not by might nor by power but by My Spirit” says the lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6

I’m not sure what it will take to cause us to repent and turn from our wicked ways, but I do know that Jesus is going to build His hell-defying Church and that he is going to have a people who are one as He and Father are one. He prayed to father for it, so, **it’s inevitable.** John 17:21-23.

The question though is. Who will be a part of it?

More and more it appears it will be a remnant, unless the Lord pours out His Spirit soon like the prophet Joel prophesied, “on all flesh.”

What I do know is this. Jesus is calling those who “have ears to hear” to listen!

Who is listening?

Now I know if you are on this mailing list and you are reading this today, then you are one of those who are listening. I pray so.

Here is how we must pray today and every day, and we would be wise to personalise it as well.

“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

Familiar prayer right?

Part of the Lord’s prayer. Now, as much as any other time in history, this must be our heart cry!

Below is a word from the Lord given to me 2 days ago.

“The Spirit and My Kingdom within you are the keys to being one of My disciples.

Spirit, because that is what we are and what our true disciples are. We are not flesh and blood. It’s a Spirit to spirit relationship.

Kingdom, because this is our “modus operandi,” our form of government.

Everything else is spurious and a waste of time.

This includes all forms of earthly government including democracy and dictatorships. It also includes religion and churchianity which are frequently a smaller version of democratic governments. They are in danger of coming under the “spirit of Babylon” which deceives the whole world.

The only thing stable in this world is Our Spirit and Our Kingdom.

The answer to every question and every plight of mankind is tied in with Our Spirit and Kingdom.

Jesus’ Church in His name is the only true way to salvation from all that is to come. Everything else purporting to be Christianity is but puppets of man’s governmental structures.

Man’s ways and thought are not our ways and thoughts.

To get this through to your readers right now is of monumental importance.

People are too quick to believe what they think is right when 90% of the time it is not right, but rather formed under the influence of the ideas and mores of society around them. The norms of society will not save them.”

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His Kingdom. His way of doing things. His “modus operandi,” and His Light and His Power released in the earth, is THE ONLY ANSWER to the world’s insurmountable problems.

If it doesn’t happen, then millions and millions will be swept up in the greatest tide of deception the world as ever seen, including that which took over Sodom and Gomorrah!

I have had a call on my life for 37+ years, and a number of my peers are the same. However, from our perspective, although small and “nobody’s” in the world sight, it tells us that God is up to something. He has a plan, a Kingdom plan that is not of this world’s ways. This is

typical of Him to use hidden and unlikely ones for His purposes. It is possible that very soon many more “will come out of the woodwork” that we don’t know about. And, whether it’s me or my peers, you, or others He is raising up instead us, that’s fine with me. His will be done. His will is perfect!

Here’s what we must remind ourselves. The Kingdom of God is a spiritual force and power, not a political one. And it will always be a spiritual power, even in the millennium!

“Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit” says the lord of hosts!” Zechariah 4:6

So, to sum up:

You and I must seek the Kingdom first.

You and I must seek Holy Spirit to fill us more and more, knowing that, as Jesus was when He was on earth; of ourselves we can do nothing.

And we must pray. “Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven...”

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