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THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND ITS
SUCCESS

The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to three citizens, one was a burger king attendant, one was a bus driver, and another was a Mercedes Benz car salesman. On any given day the Burger King worker could go to his job on a bus and wouldn't need to pay the bus fare because it will be free. The Burger King worker invited the bus driver to eat at Burger King, and it will be free. He then could go to a Mercedes Benz car salesman and at no expense drive away with a car that he would want. Each one of these people will be confident that their personal bills will be taken care of by the services from others. So will it be in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Trust, is the best branch-word from the root word love. People will work for the benefit of others and that will keep the heavenly system working. People will have the confidence that others will continue in their free will offering of service. The system is going to work because people are going to make it work, along with the angels and whatever creations God will make.

If one stops his responsibility it would start a chain reaction in which others would want to stop their responsibility. The Kingdom of Heaven can fail if it's residents let it fail. The Kingdom of Heaven will have it's citizens feeling that it takes everyone to make it work. Everyone will feel extremely important. The Kingdom failed once before, but because of the learned consequences of sufferings seen on the earth the citizens of heaven will not let it happen again.

Jesus believes in this system, and he believes that people will believe in the system if they are shown the way. If anyone believes in this system, then they believe in what Jesus believes. When Jesus said, "do you believe in me?" , he meant do you believe in this system and if you do, you then believe in me. No matter what era you've lived in, if you've believed in the system of the Kingdom of Heaven (which is sharing and giving), then you've believed in the Christ.

In the twentieth Century there have been men who stood for a cause that was right in step with the Kingdom of Heaven. Some of them were : Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and most recently Nelson Mandela . Each of these men may not have mentioned the Christ in their speeches, but in an indirect way they believed in Jesus Christ. It is the cause that people should study rather than the person who delivers the cause. Each person may die, but the cause will continue to live. The cause is greater than the person, just as Christ said " anyone who speaks against the Christ (the man) will be acceptable, but anyone who speaks against the spirit (the cause) will reject more than just the man, but everything that constitutes life, he therefore will not be forgiving (Matt. 12:31-32). If a person says that he or she does not believe in Jesus Christ yet believes in the righteous cause that he stood for, that person out of ignorance believes in him. Five hundred years ago the American Indians didn't know of Jesus Christ the person, yet they believed in him if they believed in loving (the cause) their fellow man as themselves.

Jesus wanted to direct the apostles and the people to a system of sharing and loving more than directing them to himself. He wanted the apostles to keep quiet the fact of who they thought he was (Matt.16:20, Mark7:36). Being worshiped as the Christ wasn't the most important thing to him, because that would have made him just another idol to worship, instead of, a unity of people worship, and he knew it. He wanted to be known as a mere man (Matt.8:20, Mr.2:10, Lk.6:22, Jn.3:13). He never directly referred to himself as the Christ, others did that (Matt.16:13-17).

Jesus believed that this system would solve the problems of the world in his day and in the future. He said the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, even though it was the smallest seed it would grow into the biggest tree. What he was trying to show is, that if one person would begin to do good, others would see the good and begin to do good also. The good would then spread to others and good would grow big because of everyone. He believed he was a mustard seed and so was everyone else.

Christ was of the immediacy, he said "the Kingdom of Heaven is among you now, it has come". He also said "the Kingdom is within you". He was a great optimist and still is. The kingdom is a change of heart primarily and that is why it starts with the individual (St. Mk.1:15, Lk.17:21). This positive attitude triggers positive behavior in people and would help our society. Those who are resurrected into the tangible Kingdom are also of the immediacy, because they entered the Kingdom of the heart and mind. They had love for people and at the resurrection they'll be trusted with

heavenly powers and heavenly possessions. Those possessions and powers will not be used for personal gains but for unity gains.

So often we think only of the tangible and benefits like: the absence of sicknesses, the abundance of food, and living forever. But we forget the spiritual disposition of its citizens. Now is the time to accept this system of love . You can't say you'll accept it later because the later will become the now. Now is the time to make the decision or it will be an obligation when we are confronted with the reality of God at christ second coming. It will be to choose God's ways or be destroyed, that will make it a choice not of the free will.

If you're waiting only for the tangible kingdom and have not already accepted the spiritual kingdom, then you're no different from the present world. The Kingdom of Heaven's premier theme is people and how you relate to them.

It is erroneous to think that a person who doesn't participate in this system now will be enabled to participate in the Kingdom then. It won't be automatic; everyone will put his efforts into the heavenly system. Without this effort it won't work.

Just because we will be perfect doesn't mean we'll be full of love as a result of our perfectness. Adam was perfect and he still was able to sin. Satan and his angels were perfect and they also sinned. Perfection creates a condition for happiness, but it does not force love. If perfection creates a state of being that prevents sin and generates love, then where will be the free will of individuals? If those who are perfect can't sin where will the (free-

will) be? Perfection doesn't change or control the hearts of people, people have to do it willingly. People can sin in the Kingdom of Heaven. They can lust, covet, kill and steal, but they won't because they know the results and care for the well being of each other. Maturing and growing are better words to use in place of perfection. We will be perfect, most likely in a physical way, and we will mature spiritually now and forever into the Kingdom of heaven.

We will have feelings in this perfect state and will keep our humanity in the kingdom. I'm sure Christ, Moses, and the angels have compassion and sadness right now while in the Kingdom of Heaven even in their perfect state.

Happiness will come not from the material possessions, but from the willingness of each other to make it work. We will carry each others burdens. This will create a society of love.

We have to develop a character in this now or at least start one. We are to exhort each other in this life now. Developing sharing which is part of a character should be started in this life and continued into the Kingdom of Heaven. He that can be trusted with little things now will be trusted with greater things on a cosmic level when they enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 25:21). He that shares a few things now will be able to share many things in Heaven. It will be harder for rich people to share in the Kingdom because they are so used to having everything now. The Kingdom is for the poor because all will be poor, but because they share, all will be rich. There are a great many riches to share in the Kingdom.

Satan , his angels , and Adam excluded themselves in their perfect state . They went against the principles of sharing and wanted everything for themselves . In a sense they were in the Kingdom and yet they were not , because of their hearts . We are in the Kingdom today if we open our hearts and minds . If we don't open our eyes we aren't in the Kingdom .

Christ while on earth was in the Kingdom and lived as one from the Kingdom . His heart , mind and eyes were wide open . He shared and was trusted with peoples personal belongings such as when he borrowed a donkey and was trusted to return it . He stayed in the homes of first time acquaintances and could walk right into someone's supper room and use it for a night . He had trust in God that he could walk on water and control the weather . He had similar control over animals just as Adam had and what the redeemed will receive . He really believed that the Kingdom had come . This is the way of the Kingdom and it begins now ! We don't have to wait for the tangible kingdom to arrive we can begin it as Christ did . Miracles will also be attained in this side of eternity if one would just believe enough .

If the whole world would share like Christ did for one day or a week , there would be many people who would die to keep that sharing system functioning . That is what Jesus did ! That's how bad he wanted it .

People haven't done justice to Christ , to what he believed in , and his efforts . (They've pushed him to the front under the spot light instead of what he believed in and died for , such as people and their well being) . Others have died for a doctrine

of theology or even for Christ rather than for the system of love (demonstrated by sharing) that he died to defend. Why should people die for Christ when he didn't even die for himself? People should die in the defense of the well being of other people, such as Christ for the homeless, hungry, oppressed and the sick.

There are people who don't like to share and don't want to sacrifice. That attitude is very different from the Kingdom of Heaven. When Christ sets up the Kingdom, his system is the one he'll set up, and the five little virgins who don't have the oil of sanctification (love) will exclude themselves (Matt.25:1-13). Those people can't make the transition from greed to sharing willfully.

John the baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Christ and in response Jesus didn't use any scripture to prove who he was. Instead he directed the attention of John's disciples to the physical needs of the people and how those needs were being met. The hungry were fed, the blind could see and the cripple could walk (Luke 7:20-23).

Love is to attend to the immediate needs of people. That was enough truth to satisfy John that Jesus was from God, because that is what God is concerned with. Attending to peoples physical needs also attends to their spiritual needs, because it puts them into high spirits and results in God getting the praise.

The way we view this world makes us scared not to have a system that forces people to act in a loving and respectful way, such as our social laws try to achieve. But being forced to love is not a state of happiness. It must come freely from within. The

Holy Spirit is the agent by which Love will come from within . But we must first accept and believe in this system of sharing cooperatively .

This is the question we must ask ourselves . Are we ready to sacrifice all and to share all if it would lead to the improvement and happiness of mankind ? These are the ideals and values of the Kingdom of Heaven .

END

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Mr. Jim R. Perez

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Dear Mr. Perez:

Thank you for your letter of several weeks ago, and for your material on "The Kingdom of Heaven and Its Success." I enjoyed reading this material; it was full of insights that we've encountered in the journey back to the true Jesus of history--the Jesus before Christianity. Also, it reminded me of some of the fine thoughts found in Albert Nolan's excellent book, JESUS BEFORE CHRISTIANITY. I assume you've read this book; if not, you'll want to be sure to obtain it.

I realize that the article you sent represents only a beginning in your efforts to write. Nevertheless, I think I may be able to use portions of your material in one or more forthcoming QUEST Forums. And as you continue to improve your writing skills, your material will doubtless become more and more usable.

Thanks again for sharing your thoughts with us.

Yours most cordially,



Norman Jarnes
Publishing Editor