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**From the Desk of**

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Dear Friends,

After church services one Sunday a gentleman stopped and ask, “Rev. Chuck, what is the kingdom of heaven you’re always talking about? I can’t find it.”

The kingdom I am always referring to is the one that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 6:33: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added onto you.”

Just what is the kingdom of God that Jesus is talking about and what is it that will be added unto you and what is the righteousness that Jesus refers to? After all didn’t the Jews of Jesus’s day understand this? Why was he making a big deal out of it?

When we look at this discourse with the people from a historical perspective we begin to understand just how important this teaching was. Keep in mind that the Jews were under Roman rule and their livelihood depended upon their ability to get along with the Romans. They saw themselves in bondage and servitude with no way out, and no way to acquire the things they desired that would bring positive change to their lives.

Jesus arrives and announces that it is **YOUR** Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Yes, God is your father too! Wishing to give you all good things, in fact it is his pleasure to do so. But, you must seek him first.

This whole premise of God wanting his children to have access to the kingdom right now was a major shift in the mind-set of the day. After all, don’t we have to die first in order to get to the kingdom? No, taught Jesus. All you have to do is seek it. Go to God first and then to man as directed. But like the gentleman on that one Sunday morning, the people said, “I can’t find it.”

So, Jesus again taught the people saying, “The kingdom is not in the sky or in some far off

place that you can’t get to. The kingdom is **WITHIN YOU** (Luke 17:21).

Jesus is teaching the people how they can break free of the negative thoughts and beliefs they hold about themselves under Roman rule. In truth the Romans have no power but the power the people give them to control their minds. As Proverbs 23:7 states: “As a man thinks in his heart so he is.”

Quit thinking of yourself as a victim of circumstance, situation, or challenge. Seek God’s kingdom which is perfect order, harmony, love, and filled with ideas of every good kind. See the world rightly, from God’s point of view: He made it and God doesn’t make junk. People do, God doesn’t. Jesus never went around the country complaining about how bad things were, or how awful the Romans treated everyone. He say God in everyone and everything.

The miracle in Jesus’s teachings is simple: change your outlook and you change your world. As you focus your attention on all the good things in your life you start to see that you really are blessed. That God has always given you what you need when you needed it. All you have to do is seek it. But how?

Pray, meditate, and then take action. God can only help those who help themselves. In other words if you want change in your life, then you have to be the change. Ask for guidance, wisdom, insight during your prayer time. Then listen in quiet meditation for the “still small voice” to respond. Then go out and do what you are guided to do to ensure the change will take place. And the more you practice the more you rewards and blessings will be.