

CHANGING ATMOSPHERES – OR BRINGING THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO WHERE WE ARE

“Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ (Luke 10:8-9)

THE KINGDOM IS HERE NOW

- ▶ "THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED." From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mat 4:16-17)

DON'T LET THE ENEMY BACK IN

- ▶ and do not give the devil an opportunity. He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labour, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of *the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. (Eph 4:27-32)

WE MUST LIVE PURE

- ▶ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and *there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), (Eph 5:1-9)*

WHAT KINGDOM LOOKS LIKE

- ▶ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (Rom 14:17-18)

HOW THE ATMOSPHERE CHANGES FOR JESUS

- ▶ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. (Luke 10:17-18)
- ▶ It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1)

BEFORE AND AFTER THE CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE

▶ BEFORE

▶ Luke 4 – Luke 9

▶ Jesus was attacked by the devil

▶ Rejected by His own people who tried to kill Him.


▶ The Pharisees aggressively opposed Him

▶ John and his disciples doubted Him despite John's revelation at His baptism.

▶ The forces of nature were thrown against Him.

▶ Those He set free from great demonic oppression feared Him and sent Him away

AFTER

- ▶ Last 14 Chapters of Luke's gospel
 - ▶ Hardly any demonic activity – it yielded to Him
 - ▶ The Scribes and Pharisees could not answer Him
 - ▶ The disciples rejoiced
 - ▶ The crowds came and followed Him
 - ▶ Jesus cleansed the Temple
 - ▶ He was able to teach daily in the Temple
 - ▶ The plots of the Scribes and Pharisees were thwarted.
 - ▶ He has the ultimate victory at the Cross.
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