

The Kingdom of the Coming King

Isa 32:3-4 The eyes of those who see will not be dim, and the ears of those who hear will listen. Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly.

Last Sunday Isaiah spoke about the King and His Kingdom. This morning we shall learn of the status of the citizens of this glorious Kingdom. I suppose we all have at one time or another dreamed of a "perfect world". This passage this morning does speak of a "perfect world" in the midst of an imperfect world. We refer to it as the church, or the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of heaven for the church is that kingdom which our Lord came to bring into existence through His death and suffering in our place upon the cross. What we see in this passage is that Isaiah would have us look for something greater than the earthly kingdom of Judah. Here he speaks of the church which was only shadowed by the earthly Davidic kingdom but has its fulfillment in Christ and His Kingdom. And even now it is not the church visible of which Isaiah writes, but it of the church invisible, that church that is without spot or wrinkle, that we read about in Ephesians 5:25-28. It is that Church that *Christ loved and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*" A kingdom that is without spot or wrinkle because its citizens have been washed in the blood of Christ and now stands before a most holy God holy and without blemish. But the question must be how can this come about, how can it be that sinners may stand before a most holy God faultless and without blemish? This is the Gospel, the Good News that Isaiah proclaimed long before the Messiah was born in Bethlehem. The Good News that Abraham saw and rejoiced in, and the same Good News we rejoice in this morning. Let us consider then the necessary transformation that must take place in order to make the sinner a saint, making him a citizen of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. The transformation that is necessary to establish this Kingdom of God

1. It is a kingdom made up of sinners saved by grace alone
 - a. In the words of our Savior

Matt 9:13 For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Luke 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

- b. In the words of the Apostle Paul

1 Tim 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.

2. This passage speaks of a fourfold necessity to be a part of this King's kingdom

The eyes of those who see will not be dim, and the ears of those who hear will listen. Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly.

- a. The ability to see
- b. The ability to hear
- c. The ability to understand
- d. And the ability to communicate
- e. All of which the natural man, in regard to Christ and His kingdom, is totally incapable

*1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man **does not receive** the things of the Spirit of God, for they are **foolishness to him; nor can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.*

3. Therefore we may understand the necessity of being born of God
 - a. Jesus clarified this to Nicodemus - Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God
 - b. See here can be understood to mean, he cannot comprehend the things of God
4. Paul spoke of it as the "natural man". (see 1 Cor 2:14 above)
 - a. He does not receive them because he considers them foolish
 - b. He is not able to know them
 - c. The reason he cannot understand the things of God is because they are spiritual
 - d. He cannot understand because he has not been born of God, he has not become a new creature in Christ
5. This is why the central message of the church must be Christ and Him crucified
 - a. As Paul approached Corinth he knew philosophical debate was not the answer
 - b. He determined to preach Christ and Him crucified
 - c. He determined to preach the Word of God

6. But he knew that God was able to convert the lost
 - a. There has to be an awakening - for all men are dead in trespasses and sin
 - b. The preaching of the gospel was proclaimed to men who were sinners by nature and sinners by life style
 - c. Conversion is a work of the Spirit of God alone

*Eph 2:1-5 And you He made alive, **who were dead in trespasses and sins**, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others. **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*

- d. The preaching of the Word is necessary but not without the inward working of the Holy Spirit
4. Isaiah here is speaking of the fourfold work of the Holy Spirit in bringing the natural man from his natural state to the spiritual state
 - a. Perception - *The eyes of those who see will not be dim*
 - (1) Giving sight to the blind
 - (2) Giving sight to those whom the god of this world had blinded

*Eph 1:17-18 "God . . . the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*

- (3) Isaiah here wants us to know that the citizens of this kingdom have been healed of their blindness
- b. Reception - *and the ears of those who hear will listen.*
 - (1) The Word of God becomes precious to the citizens of this kingdom - O how I love Your law
 - (2) They can now understand what is written

Matt 13:16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

- (3) The ability to hear has been given to the citizens of this kingdom

Mark 4:11 "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God

- (4) This is why we understand faith is a gift not a natural ability on our part
- (5) Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, were it not for the Holy Spirit working in us we could not hear, we would be without faith

1 Cor 4:7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive?

- c. The ability to grasp or understanding - *Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge*
 - (1) The rash, those who did not take time to think on truth and therefore fell into error
 - (2) Those who had no time for God have been made to hear God speaking in His Word
 - (3) Now they understand because the Holy Spirit has become their teacher

Ps 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

1 Cor 2:10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

1 John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

- d. Communication *and the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly.*
 - (1) Before conversion we were unable to understand therefore could not communicate the gospel
 - (2) We were as one who could only stammer and stutter
 - (3) How could we speak about something we did not understand
 - (4) Now we are able to give an answer for the hope that lies within us

Conclusion: For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus Eph 2:10

2 Cor 5:17-18 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

And because of the grace bestowed upon us we shall one day hear this words:

Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world Matt 25:34