



Thy Kingdom Come:

TAKE IT BY FORCE

Bishop Felton Hawkins

Matthew 11:12

12 *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

Matthew 9:9-17

9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, **Follow me**. And he arose, and followed him.

10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

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- Here Jesus is at the core of his purpose and mission in the advancement of the kingdom.
 - In order to do this, He must break the norms and barriers of the religion that are in direct opposition.
 - It is clear that the corporates were the very religious leaders of his day; and the systems they created to separate them from the general population.
 - We see here Matthew, who represents sinners.

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- Pharisees are those religious leaders who created a culture of the elitist, which they used to control, manipulate, and influence people.
 - Jesus represents the new covenant, a new day, a new way of having a significant relationship with God.
 - The question becomes why does Jesus fellowship with sinners like Matthew and the publicans who were, themselves, considered the worst of the worst because of their occupation as Jews.

Matthew 9:9-17

12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, **They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.**

13 **But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

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- Here we see the mission statement of Jesus and his role in the kingdom.
 - He comes seeking out the sin sick, not the religious righteous.
 - He emphasizes the need for mercy that trumps sacrifice.
 - He has come to call sinners to think differently and change their perception of who God is.

Matthew 9:9-17

14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

15 And Jesus said unto them, **Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.**

- The disciples inquire about the act of fasting that is done consistently by the Pharisees but never by Jesus' disciples because the Pharisees did not know God on a personal relationship.

Matthew 9:9-17

16 No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

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- This is the conflict that exists when the kingdom is presented. How does the law mix with the kingdom and the new covenant?
 - Jesus makes it clear that this will end up in a disaster because there is no real benefit. True life can only exist in Christ.
 - The law is efficient to correct us, but it is not effective in our redemption.

Matthew 23:23-28

23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

- Notice, Jesus points out that religious people put more emphasis on things that are not critical and neglect what is more important.
- Law, Judgement, Mercy

Matthew 23:23-28

24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Matthew 23:14-15

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

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- The first enemy that fights us to keep us from the kingdom is me, myself, and I.
 - The second enemy is the religious systems that are entrenched in society.
 - The third enemy is satan, principalities, and wickedness in high places.