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A New Humanity

Anger

Aloha everyone! Let's pick up where we left off from last week when Christ said in verse 12 of the fifth chapter of Matthew's gospel, "Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

We can find comfort in knowing the prophets of old were persecuted and mistreated because of their faith. Jesus knew it all along. As Jesus referred to the prophets, let's look at Jeremiah of the old testament.

Verse 31 of the 31st chapter of the book of Jeremiah says, "The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah."

The word covenant is not merely an understanding, an agreement or a transaction. It is binding. It's where both parties become equal and their identities become found in one another all the while retaining their individual identities. He refers to both kingdoms of Israel and Judah where we later understand His Kingdom, Heaven's Kingdom, transcends the borders of Israel and Judah.

Scripture says in verse 33, "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

One can think the Old Testament law or system of laws were very external, meaning people understood intellectually the do's and do not's of specific actions. They understood them logically and approached them transactionally, meaning they understood the consequences that

were attached to each law, yet observed them to the best of their abilities. These system of laws were very external in that it demanded cultural conformity above all else, being stringent and causing life to be difficult.

God spoke through Jeremiah and said that He would write His instructions on the hearts of every devoted follower, which became the architectural blueprint of the comic kingdom reestablishing intimacy with His people once again.

God then explains that He will forgive the wickedness of the people.

“34 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the Lord.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the Lord. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

Forgiveness, then is a vital architectural necessity for the design of constructing the Kingdom. It resides in the heart where sometimes bitterness and anger abides.

Jesus says in, ***“You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment” (Matthew 5:21 HCSB).***

Christ, of course is referring to the 10 commandments and further emphasizing the point that we are to not disregard the law, as He has come to fulfill the law. Some have murdered in the physical sense, others have not. However, murdering someone with our thoughts, our minds and within our hearts that come out in our words as cursing against someone is more common than one would like to admit. It stems from being offended, being defensive and filled with pride. That is what Christ is addressing.

He shows us how we must deconstruct our prideful and bitter heart by releasing any anger we may be harboring in order to reconstruct our being with kingdom hearts.

By releasing our pride and anger, Christ is able to write His truths upon our hearts, thus giving us a new identity, a Kingdom identity, leading us back to our new humanity.

Questions for Discussion

1. In terms of your relationship with Christ, what is your understanding of covenant? How has Christ expressed His covenant with you? How have you expressed your covenant with Christ?
2. What are some areas in your life that has caused you to experience a spiritual collision? How is the Holy Spirit helping you?
3. What may be the latest truths God has written on your heart? How has it developed you in your understanding of the coming Kingdom?
4. Search your heart. Is there any bitterness, resentment or anger you may be hanging on to? Ask the Holy Spirit how He would like for you to address it.
5. What is your understanding of forgiveness? For what has the Lord forgiven you? What have you forgiven others of? What might some things be that you may have to forgive others?