

Word notes Sunday 1/03/09 DT Braven-Giles
Jesus Message of The Kingdom

Summary

Jesus' message was the Good News about The Kingdom of God but what is so radical about yet another kingdom?

In the 20th Century there were a couple of people who brought forward a new idea about how to rise up against injustice: non-violent action or civil disobedience, they were Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King. Both had those from within their repressed groups who turned to violence but they stuck with non-violence and won through because of it.

This parallels Jesus' news of the Kingdom – here was a kingdom not grounded on oppression or might is right or any of the earthly kingdoms as Samuel warned the Israelites about in 1 Sam 8:1-22 but instead based on heavenly precepts as Jesus taught about in the Sermon on the Mount in Matt 5:1-12.

In this new Kingdom many things are not as the world would expect – see what Jesus says in Mat 20:25 about who will be first or last, who will lose their life or gain it.

The Kingdom of God reflects the nature of the Trinity – God is 3 in 1, both Father, Son and Holy Spirit as “individuals” also the One True God. The Trinity is built on relationship and love (God is Love) and not hierarchy or authority of one partner over the others – although paradoxically there is an order: Jesus did the Father's will and only did what he saw the Father doing, the Holy Spirit comes to remind us of what Jesus said not to bring new teachings.

The Kingdom of God is not one of domination but of freedom.

Application

For Discussion:

Take a look again at 1 Samuel 8:1-22 and Matthew 5:1-12. One speaks of what a king will do, the other of what people of the Kingdom look like – what they do, how they act. Swap these about and try to describe how people in a kingdom rules by an earthly kind would act and what would the King of the second kingdom do to/for his people?

We are all leaders or rules in some kind of way – even if we only have small influence. Discuss how we are – what values come out of our lives using the language of 1 Sam 8 or Matt 5 to describe our good and not so good characteristics.

Identify from this last discussion the things each is not happy about in their lives. How can these be changed? Now do it – pray for those that need prayer and support those that need it as they seek to move ahead.

Witness:

Continue to seek the Cell's vision for outreach:

What vision does the cell have for outreach? Discuss with the cell and seek to state some realistic goals that you can make yourselves accountable to.