Daily Devotion #147

**Not of this World**

**John 18:36 (NASB) – “***My kingdom is not of this realm*."

With all the upheaval of our world it is very challenging to keep from getting lost. People fuss and fume over what is and what is not, who is and who is not. We are watching riots and looting and hatred spilling over, literally into the streets. Leaders are at one another’s throats, scratching and clawing for the top, and doing that, no matter the cost.

Our earth is a beautiful place. Physically we look around and see the work of God all over. From the trees to the grass to the beautiful blue sky after a storm. The Psalmist said it in Psalm 19:1 (NASB) **“***The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.”*. And not to mention the people. In the midst of the crazy people of the world, there are beautiful people. People we love dearly. Family members and coworkers, neighbors, etc. All of this - the beauty of the earth and the people we love and the things this life affords us are amazing.

But as God’s people, we must remember that we do not belong here. We are here for a season, but we do not belong here permanently. Meaning, we are not to put our energy in to the things of this life and how we want this life to be. We are commanded to love all people. Mark 12:31 (NASB)*31 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.*

Our purpose is to focus on our real home. Our eternal home. The Kingdom of God. That’s what Jesus told Pilate. He made a very clear distinction between this world and His world and those who occupy them. His people act and think and operate in this realm totally differently than natural man. And that is because we are changed. We are different. We have been born again, which is what Jesus said must happen to all who desire to be in His Kingdom one day. John 3:3 (NASB)*“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”*

To be born again means that we have not only become aware of our sinful hearts, but we also want to change and follow Jesus. We accept the truth that our sin keeps us from being the people we are to be if we are to live in God’s Kingdom. We turn from our sin with the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, to a life of following Jesus. And we do that because we realize the consequences.

Jesus came to the earth as God in human form to buy us out of our bondage to sin. He came to pay the ultimate price that God the Father requires of all sinful people, death. (Romans 6:23) Death is the only means of satisfying God’s Holy wrath against those who have sinned against Him. But God also loves those who have rebelled against him by their sin. And because He loves us, He sent His Son to die in our place, so His own price for sin would be paid. And when Jesus died on the Cross, God placed all our sin on Him as He became our substitute. (Romans 5:8) Therefore, because Jesus paid the price to buy us out of our sin, we can now be a part of His Kingdom.

That’s why Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this realm”. He wanted everyone to know, His people are different and are to focus on being different. And not only being different but living their lives in such a way that all people see God for who His is. Our goal, beloved, is not to get caught up in this life but to help rescue people from this life. Our goal is to get people to heaven. We belong to Jesus, He bought us out of slavery to death. Let’s make sure we reflect the Kingdom of God. The world we live in now needs us to show them real life, eternal life. Keep that truth clearly in mind. Otherwise you will get pulled in to things that won’t last.