

Prosperity and the Kingdom of God, pt.1

4.27.08

Introduction

1. Seeing something out of place – going down the Frio and seeing corrugated metal & tents, tarps up in the cypress trees 30'...those don't belong there; every time you see poverty, brokenness, hopelessness, sickness...those things were and are not supposed to be here
2. Mankind was created to have dominion; everything was to be brought under the reign of God through the agency of man. Gen.1.28; 2.15. He told Adam & Eve, "This planet is yours and I'm giving you the responsibility & authority to expand the garden all over the planet."
3. We were created in God's image and we are kings just as He is. Satan stripped mankind of his authority and took it for himself and brought destruction of every kind upon humanity & the earth.
4. Jesus came and announced, "The King is here and I've brought my Kingdom." Through his death & resurrection, he stripped the authority away from satan that he had stolen from mankind and gave it back to us. "This planet is yours and I'm giving you the responsibility & authority to eliminate everything that the devil has built and expand my kingdom all over the planet."
5. Part of mankind's mandate is to eliminate poverty and create prosperity...to bring the Garden/Kingdom to every desolate & broken place on the planet.
6. Don't allow the offense and accesses of ministries to keep you from the truth. I'm willing to dig through the mud to find the gold! Satan often puts a barrier of offense around a truth so you won't seek after it.

IT IS GOD'S WILL TO PROSPER HIS PEOPLE

- Adam & Eve – they were prosperous until they sinned; their original condition is what we are striving for in bringing in the Kingdom – perfect relationship with God; each other; everything working in harmony; prosperity on every level.
- Abraham – God blessed him with favor, and victory over enemies; two kings gave him some of their wealth; one king stated, "God is obviously with you helping you in everything you do." We are children of Abraham!
- Isaac – Gen.26.12–14
- Jacob – Gen.30.25f, 43; 31.1
- Joseph – Gen.41.41–44
- Jews leaving Egypt – Ex.12.36
- Jews promised prosperity – Deut.28.11–13

- David's great victories & Israel's expansion – 2 Sam.5–10
- Solomon's great wealth – 1 K.10.14–29
- All of the good kings prospered – Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah & Asa. When the kings prospered the people prospered.
- Job – Job 42.12–16
- Daniel – Dan.6.28
- Jesus' ministry – (Matt.14.35–36) his healing ministry turned unproductive citizens into productive ones. They then were able to take care of their families and many moved from poverty to self sufficiency; the stories of Jesus multiplying food not only demonstrate his concern for those in need, but that he wants to abundantly bless people! (Matt.14.20 – this demonstrates that he is able to do exceedingly and abundantly all that we think or imagine)
- Acts 2 & 4 – the wealth was shared and no one was in need.
- The realities of heaven – place of plenty & bounty
- *MANY OF THESE PEOPLE SUFFERED HARDSHIPS!

POVERTY IS A CURSE

1. Poverty wasn't a part of the original plan and isn't a part of God's future plans and is to be eliminated. Poverty should be viewed like cancer, abuse, & unbridled anger. It is not to be tolerated. God isn't neutral on this topic..."live with the hand you've been dealt." Just b/c Js said, "you always have the poor among you," doesn't mean he was validating poverty. He was saying that it will always be an issue that needs to be addressed
2. Scriptures on poverty – Prov.10.15, 19.7, 14.20
3. We were created to be Kingly priests (Rev.5.10; Eph.2.6), which implies we are rich. We are to take these riches and spread them around to the impoverished.
4. Some you are saying, "I just be satisfied to have enough to meet my needs." I want to challenge you and say that's a selfish statement. All you want is enough to cover your needs. I want God to so richly bless me that I not only can take care of my needs, but take care of the needs of others. "God bless me, so I can bless others!"
5. God wants you to bless others. Those of you who are employers or have an entrepreneurial gifting are to see your role much wider than just meeting a market need. God wants to use you to develop a strategy to meet the need and hire people, who will produce wealth so that the entire community prospers.
6. It is important to God that the business community prosper; it's important to God that they develop a strategies that are beneficial to the consumers,

community & employees. God isn't neutral; he has given us wisdom & insight so that we can be fruitful on every level of life. Your job is just as vital as mine.

7. 2 Cor.8.9
8. Prayer of release over business owners (or want to be), developing strategy that impacts your business, inventor, hire people, etc
9. Prayer of release over those serving in the education and vocational training fields (.Sunday School teachers included). Truth unlocks destiny. John 8.32.

THE REALITIES OF PROSPERITY

1. Prosperity is from God - Deut.8.18; Hag.2.7-8
2. Wealth is a tool to be used, not an object to be worshipped. The difference between Nebuch (Dan.4) & Cornelius (Acts 10).
3. Wealth is the source of many problems - 1 Tim.6.9-10 (Matt.13.22)
4. Wealth is the solution to many problems - Luke 8.1, 16.9.