

The New Testament Church  
*Preparing for Change #6 – Kingdom Priorities*  
 June 2, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Preparing for Change – God is bringing a correction, reset, adjustment, to our nation/culture...

- A. There is great change coming and most Americans are aware something must happen...
  1. An economic reset is coming, and rising boldness of evil could have tyrannical consequences
  2. We have become so polarized, many are concerned for how we could ever unite...
- B. In this series we have considered the early church recipe (Acts 2:42) for changing their culture...
  1. In the face of tyranny, *they focused on seeing the eventual triumph of God's Kingdom!*
  2. In the face of polarization, *they cultivated koinonia communion, forming a deep covenant!*
  3. With no earthly appeal, *they prayed "without ceasing," bringing a measure of heaven to earth!*
- C. We have now considered two of four strategic areas of influence highlighting the tribe of Issachar
  1. The "Sons of Issachar" – a unique tribe assembling for battle – 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 12:32 (1000 BC)
  2. We have learned that the tribe of Issachar
    - a. Were those content to farm at home, learning humble wisdom to give direction
    - b. Issachar also were those who learned to staying in their sphere of influence
      1. Deuteronomy 33:18-19 (1400 BC) Issachar commended for remaining "in their tents"
      2. They called people to the mountain (kingdom) for righteousness... trusting God that He would bring all the gifts necessary to get the job done!

II Kingdom Priorities - how to avoid "majoring in the minors;" **keeping the main thing the main thing!**

- A. The tribe of Issachar understood that maintaining kingdom priorities produced unity
  1. Judges 5:15 – 1236 BC – Deborah was the 4<sup>th</sup> Judge during Israel's peak of influence
    - a. The "Hebrew Republic" was a time when Israel was the freest nation in the ancient world
    - b. She had a decentralized government and Judges as civil magistrates were restrained by law
    - c. When the people did not follow God (no self-govt), the Judge became the deliverer...
    - d. As we move along these 400 years, the Judges become more powerful and corrupt...
  2. Issachar was not a tribe with prolific physical warriors – but they were people of the Torah
    - a. In 1800 BC prophesied to be a people of tillage and tribute – farming (studying) at home
    - b. In 1400 they were highlighted as "remaining in their tents" – staying in their lane
    - c. Now, in 1236 BC, they were challenged with keeping the priorities of the Kingdom
      1. After 80 years of peace, Israel was no longer ready to defend themselves (see 5:8)
      2. They backslid and were taken captive to Jabin king of Canaan, in Hazor...
    - d. Deborah's rule as a Judge revealed the need for an eternal perspective (Judges 5:
    - e. Issachar's princes raised a fighting force under the command of Barak in the valley!
    - f. They had "resolves of heart" – commitment at the deepest level to preserve the kingdom
      1. Kingdom means what is eternal – God sees "the end from the beginning" (Isaiah 46:10)
      2. The "little foxes" (Song of Solomon 2:15) spoil the vine – soft choices of compromise
      3. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord raises up a standard (Isaiah 59:19-20)
- B. Matthew 6:33 – Seek first the Kingdom – "let's keep the main thing the main thing"
  1. The Kingdom means eternal things – the highest purpose – the ultimate goal...
    - a. As individuals, we examine ourselves – are we ready for eternity? (receive the gospel)
    - b. As individuals, we need to rehearse the purpose for which God has us alive at this time!
    - c. As parents, we prepare our children with character to avoid making them soft...
    - d. As churches, we want to lift a standard to prepare us to sacrifice for Kingdom influence
      1. We may need to move out of our comfort zone, yet do so for "the common good"
      2. We can go into the valley – the place of turmoil – and help lift each other's spirits
  2. "All these things will be added unto you" – God knows what you need and will supply it!
  3. Let us continue to declare Deborah's song – *Hear O Ye Kings!*