

Plane Savers (Micky from Ice pilots) – taking a derelict DC-3 from WW2 and restoring it to flying condition.

In the middle of this someone ask him how he was handling the whole situation.

He said that this is what he tells himself every day.

*“I get up every day, brush my teeth and tell myself: “Nothing makes sense”. When you learn to do this and accept it your day will go much better.”*

This is a profound statement.

He is saying that he accepts that fact he is not in control because nothing makes sense. Yet it is all working out.

He’s right on in his thinking. It’s a godly statement we need to learn.

Get up every morning and tell yourself: “nothing makes sense”, I don’t know the big plan God has and just when I think I understand what going on I realize I don’t. Nothing makes sense and I accept that God is in control and everything will work out.

When we learn to do this and believe it our day will go much better.

This is how we are to think as people of the Kingdom of God.

- Pray

Matthew mentions the “Kingdom of Heaven” and the “Kingdom of God” over 50 times in his gospel.

- What is he talking about?
- Let’s talk about the what, where, when , and who of the kingdom.

1. **What** is this Kingdom?

- a. In Matthews gospel the Kingdom is a diverse group of beings operating under the authority of the King and will to do his will.
- b. God is the king **and** all creation is His kingdom. Yet not all in the kingdom are operating as subjects of that kingdom.

2. **Who** is the focus of the Kingdom?

- a. God gave us Jesus Christ as a physical example to follow. He is the Lord of the Kingdom and the Lord always obeys the King of the kingdom.
- b. God has placed ALL authority in heaven and on earth in his hands. If we can’t live looking to Jesus as our Lord and authority, then God is not our King and we are not really part of the kingdom.
- c. Ultimately God is the focus of the kingdom, but Jesus is to be our focus.

3. **When** is the Kingdom going to come?

- a. When Jesus started preaching 2000 years ago, he said it was already here.

- b. The kingdom takes on different form as history goes on but its effect is always the same. It brings order out of chaos to the glory of the King – God.

4. **Where** is the kingdom of God?

- a. It's everywhere. Everything is made and owned by the King.
- b. But the effects of the kingdom of God can be seen wherever there are people will to obey the king.

5. **Who** is part of the kingdom of God?

- a. Those who are willing to obey the King by doing the will (work) of the King.

So, I've challenged you to think about this for a few weeks. Are you part of the kingdom of God? Because the people who operate in the kingdom **and** are truly part of it are all about "truth" and all about "forgiveness".

So, if you are not interested in knowing the truth (being in God's word) and are not forgiving someone for something they have done to you then you have to ask yourself if you're really part of the kingdom.

**This is serious business folks.**

- So, a funny thing happens on the way to the kingdom!

We begin to look like our Lord.

- Paul states in **Romans 8:28-30**

*28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to **become like his Son**, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.*

- Does that make me a son of God if I'm in a relationship with God through Christ?
  - Yes, **Genesis 1:27** tells me I bear the image of God. So, I'm to do the work the Father has for me to do.
- But, what does "bear the image of God" mean? After all God is a spirit and I'm not.
  - **We are created rational and spiritual.** God made your flesh out of the earth and added His spirit into that flesh which is from heaven. So, you operate as a hybrid being both flesh and spirit. No other creation of God is like us including the angels.
    - And, Man, alone is able to worship God (spiritual) and have the ability to think or reason (rational).
  - **We alone were granted dominion over creation.** **Genesis 1:26-27.** Effectively we are God's managers over creation. What is interesting is that man was granted dominion over creation not Satan. Satan it

would seem is trying to control and destroy God creation by using the corrupted human nature of man to do that.

- **Believers still carries the reflection of that original righteousness** that Adam had. The reflection is not in the form of sinlessness but is in the form of sanctification?
  - John 17:17 - *Sanctify (set) them apart by truth, your Word is truth.*
  - It's understanding the truth of God through his word that causes us to live in such a way and do things that reflects God to the world.
- How do I bear the image of God?
  - By doing His will and being like Him.

*"A king is the leader and ruler of his people. He leads his people. And the people, in one way or another, follow him. In one way or another they walk in his path and reflect his image. The two are joined together. So, When Pilot had nailed the sign on the cross that read: "Here is the King of the Jew" he was correct. Messiah is the Sovereign of Israel, King of the Jews."*

*A people follow their king. But for the last two thousand years, the Jewish people have not been following their King or have they."*

*"But if He's their King, then they must, in some way, still follow Him or be joined to Him. The mystery is they still follow Him. What we fail to see is that two thousand years ago Messiah became an*

*outcast, a pariah, a man of suffering. Since that time, what has happened to the Jewish people? They became an outcast nation, a pariah nation, and a people of suffering. Messiah was falsely accused, mocked, vilified, abused, and dehumanized. In the same way, for two thousand years, the Jewish people have been falsely accused, mocked, vilified, abused, and dehumanized. Messiah was robbed of His dignity, wounded, and condemned to death. So too the Jewish people have over and over again been robbed of their dignity, wounded, and condemned to death. Messiah was led as a lamb to His death, stripped naked, and executed. So too His people have, through the ages, been led as lambs to their deaths, stripped naked, and executed. You see, Messiah remains the King of Israel ... and, in one way or another, a people will follow their king: And so for two thousand years, the Jewish people have followed in the footsteps of their King and, in that time, have borne His image."*

*"But can't forget his resurrection."*

*"So the children of Israel were also crucified .. in the Holocaust in Germany and Russia. But after it was over, the nation of Israel was resurrected, the only nation on earth to have undergone such a resurrection from life to death ... just as had its King. And if His nation, without intending to, still follows Him and still bears His image, how much more must we. How much more must we follow Him and walk in His footsteps. How much more must we be conformed to and bear His image to this world. They have done so without knowing. How much more must we in our knowing... You see a kingdom must follow its king."*

*We must walk, act, think, and be transformed into the likeness of our Lord the Messiah who is Himself the visible image of the Holy God.*

So, let me leave you with this:

- How is the Kingdom of God like a breakfast of ham and eggs?
  - The ham required a sacrifice by the pig to provide for the breakfast.
  - While the chicken only contributed an egg to the breakfast and can always lay more.
- Both are needed to make the breakfast.
- Christ made the sacrifice to get us into the Kingdom and we contributed the sin.

But this is where the analogy ends. Because we are also required to make a sacrifice. We are to follow our Lord and give up our desires for our lives and allow the King-God to replace them with His desires. Now that may not see fair but the beauty of it is that what God has in store for you if you do that, is way better than you could ever imagine.

So, if God has revealed himself to you the choice is yours.