

The Agenda of the Coming King

Something Greater, Week Three

We've walked through a rather tumultuous election year in 2020. During the primaries and then in the general election, there was a phrase we heard a lot...

"As your President, I promise to..."

And when elections end and inaugurations take place, we wait to see what the new leader's agenda really is. Was it all talk? Or will there be action?

God is ultra-clear about the agenda of King Jesus.

Isaiah prophesied about it...

Isaiah 61:1-3, 8-9 NRSV

[1] The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to **bring good news to the oppressed**, to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to **proclaim liberty to the captives**, and **release to the prisoners**; [2] to **proclaim the year of the LORD's favor**, and the **day of vengeance of our God**; to **comfort all who mourn**; [3] to **provide for those who mourn** in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

[8] For **I the LORD love justice**, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. [9] Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

This passage from Isaiah is the passage Jesus read from the scroll in the synagogue that almost got him killed by his neighbors for his claim to messiahship.

He stopped short in the middle of verse 2 because, while it was indeed Jesus' role at his first coming to "proclaim the year of the Lord's favor," it will be his task at his second coming to proclaim the "day of vengeance of our God."

Jesus' Kingdom agenda is to announce good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to grant freedom to captives.

And Jesus is still doing those things, but more importantly...

Jesus carries out his agenda through his church. We are to continue doing what Jesus started doing.

Mary sang about it...

Luke 1:46-55 NRSV

[46] And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, [47] and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, [48] for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; [49] for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

[50] **His mercy is for those who fear him** from generation to generation. [51] He has shown strength with his arm; he has **scattered the proud** in the thoughts of their hearts. [52] He has **brought down the powerful** from their thrones, and **lifted up the lowly**; [53] he has **filled the hungry** with good things, and **sent the rich away empty**. [54] He has **helped his servant Israel**, in remembrance of his mercy, [55] according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Mary was radical! She was a revolutionary. She would *not* have been popular with the religious and political establishment who are concerned with keeping power.

Jesus' Kingdom agenda is to flip our power structures upside down to deliver the oppressed.

And guess what - we get to continue that work today. The church gets to serve as the conscious of the state and its leaders. We get to speak prophetically to those in power on behalf of the weak and the oppressed and marginalized.

John the Baptizer prepared everyone for it...

John 1:14-18 NRSV

[14] And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, **full of grace and truth**. [15] (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

[16] **From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace**. [17] The law indeed was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**. [18] No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has **made him known**.

Jesus' Kingdom agenda is to reveal God to us and to show us the fullness of God's truth and grace.

And today, we get to learn from Jesus' revelation of God. When you see how Jesus lived, when you hear what he taught, and when you see what he has accomplished in the world, you and I get to learn how to live and how to make our lives count for the Kingdom.

People who receive it rejoice in it...

Psalms 126:1-6 NRSV

[1] When the LORD **restored the fortunes of Zion**, we were like those who dream. [2] Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." [3] **The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced**.

[4] Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. [5] May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. [6] Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

The good King Jesus' agenda for his people is good, and when you receive his agenda, you will rejoice for eternity.