

SUNDAY LINE AND WORLD MINISTRIES



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Caring for children around the world

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THE CHILDREN CAPTURE YOUR HEART:

Reports from Manila, Philippines



Members of the Saturday choir from the Cathedral of Praise volunteer to provide the work and ministry activity for the feeding program in Manila. They know that they will prepare 500 meals for the week divided into the 5 days that they will go out to the ministry area. The children capture one's heart in a moment's time but the adults are not excluded. The good news of Jesus will be shared with them as well. There is teaching about prayer, water baptism, about the importance of being in the Lord's house and scripture to help them in their new-found faith. By the week's end of this particular feeding, 20 mothers were baptized.

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Thy Kingdom Come

Key Scripture: *Matthew 12:29*

“How can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?”

In our key passage Jesus had just displayed his authority as he healed a demon possessed man, who, as a result, was deaf and blind. The Pharisees have accused Jesus of casting out the demon by the Prince of demons called Beelzebub. Aware of their rising plots against Him, Jesus makes it clear that His persistent destruction of Satan’s forces could not possibly be the work of Satan (Matt. 12:25-29), and that a greater kingdom ‘had come’ and not simply ‘will come’.

The point being that we live in a world of two opposing kingdoms which are in conflict. One ruled by Satan, also known as Beelzebub, and the other by God, and that there is a spiritual war going on between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God.

You see, Scriptures were not written as the inspired Word of God to simply fill up the Bible, but to teach us how the enemy fights and how we can fight back and defend ourselves.

Now, the enemy has always been here to destroy God’s people, but there has never been a battle such as there is raging in these last days. There is only one War - between God and Satan - **BUT there are many battles.**

God, in His Word, teaches us in Ephesians 6 how to defend ourselves against the attacks of the enemy and how we can avoid anything from becoming a stronghold in our lives.

That is why Jesus also tells us that we can’t serve two masters - either we will love the one and hate the other, or hate the one and love the other (Matthew 12:6-24).

Many people will say that they are not serving Satan - they say “I don’t love him, or I don’t serve him”, however, God sees the inside of our hearts.

He doesn’t care about what colour our hair is, or how our make-up is applied, what colour our clothes are. He only cares about our hearts.

That brings us back to Matthew 12:29 where Jesus makes this point: **“Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man?”** Beloved, it is up to us to ‘tie up’ the strongman that wants to disrupt our lives and destroy our families from receiving the blessings of God’s rule in our lives.

The devil creeps in in such subtle ways that we don’t even realize it. That is why we are seeing more and more divorces, more immorality, more people caught up in pornography, more abortions, more babies being born out of wedlock, more senseless shootings, more teenagers committing suicide . . . the list goes on and on. Why is this happening? Because we are “allowing” the strongman into our homes!

Few Christians would not challenge the fact that we are approaching the consummation of this age. The reason for this is that we are closer now than ever before in the history of the church to achieving her goal. The goal for the church is for her to proclaim the gospel of God’s Kingdom to all nations. Many people still ask: “If Jesus is King . . . where is His kingdom? Is it off on some distant planet or star?” The Holy Spirit makes it clear that Jesus’ Kingdom is not in some distant planet or star, but is resident in the here and now in the hearts of all those who love Him regardless of age, race or color.

As King He gives every believer the presence of the Holy Spirit, who makes these unconditional demands:

- He denounces sin.
- He denounces dishonesty, greed and selfishness.
- He demands selfless love.
- He challenges us to live nobly and Godly in this world.

- As King, He has the power to transform sinners.
- As King, He is the Savior of sinners.
- As King, He is the author of peace, and
- As King, He is the Hope for the world.

Many people claim to follow Jesus but in their lives:

- Jesus is not King of their thoughts.
- Jesus is not King of their imaginations.
- Jesus is not the King of their actions.
- Jesus is not the King of their social lives.
- Jesus is not the King of their personal lives.

In fact, when Jesus does not have complete control of our lives then He is neither our Lord, and if He is not Lord, NEITHER is He our King and when He is not King we are NOT part of His Kingdom. We are outsiders and according to the words of Jesus, we will be banished into everlasting darkness where there is weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The greatest hope for the church today is the return of Jesus. Not only does the Bible teach it, but it is in the hearts of believers everywhere as there is a growing feeling of impending catastrophe and doom coming upon this world.

Many scoffers say, as they did in Peter's day in 2 Peter 3:4 **"Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."** Beloved, the signs of Jesus return are all around us, but like the Pharisee in Jesus' day, the church is still looking for some greater sign. When the Pharisees demanded Jesus to show them a sign from heaven, what Jesus said is very appropriate for the church today:

Matthew 16: 2-3: He replied, **"When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times."**

Whatever view a person may have about the return of Jesus, the one thing that leaves us no doubt is that Jesus is coming because the greatest of all the prophecies concerning the mission of the church are being fulfilled today in our lifetime. This prophecy is found in the gospel of Matthew 24:14: **"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."**

Did you get that? When the gospel of God's kingdom is preached in the whole world "and then the end will come!" (My emphasis by adding an exclamation mark.)

Jesus did not say that the whole world would be saved, but He did say that the gospel of the kingdom would be preached in the whole world.

With today's technology we are reaching the whole world, and the same Holy Spirit who empowered the early disciples to turn the world upside down is still at work in the world today as millions of lives are coming to faith.

The Bible refers to the coming of Jesus as a coronation called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Our seats for this great event have already been saved. The price for this event was paid for 2000 years ago with the blood of Jesus, and the ticket is the presence of the Holy Spirit in our heart. From the time that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, the Church has been proclaiming and advancing the Kingdom of God to a world under the control of Satan's kingdom. With the coming of Jesus and the Holy Spirit a greater power is now at work convicting sinners to turn from darkness into the light of God's marvelous kingdom.

That is why the LORD taught the Church to pray the "Kingdom Prayer" for the coming of God's Kingdom and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven!

Thank you for your continued giving as we reach out to a hurting world.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Roman



The Gospel Takes Root

“What a pleasure to see the joy on the children’s faces as they receive delicious meals. What a pleasure to see the gospel take root in lives,” says Beverley Sumrall. Good, hot meals served for the children provide the opportunity and the entrance to tell of the love of Christ and then to see those same people grow in the Lord.

Real People with Real Needs

“In the Philippines the finances received from Sunday Line donations go to real people in real need,” says Alisha Sumrall. The father of this family collects garbage on the street to help to take care of his wife and four children. When the children attend the feeding program they not only receive a healthy meal but they are also taught about how much Jesus loves them.

When the children are gathered together, before they receive their food, they express their thanks in prayer.

At each feeding not only are hungry children fed, but the sick, the elderly and anyone else who would like, also receive prayer.

A Loving God

This mother cried when she experienced the goodness of a loving God. Her baby daughter was ill but was healed when she was prayed for. When the mother arrived home and handed the child to her husband, who was also sick, he, too, became well as he carried the baby.



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