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“Keys of the Kingdom”- 1

Matthew 6:31-34 Ampc. *Therefore do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or, What are we going to have to wear?³² For the Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you need them all. (No matter who is in office)³³ But seek (^[z]aim at and strive after) **first of all His kingdom and His righteousness** (^[aa]His way of doing and being right), and **then all these things** (^[ab]taken together will be given you besides.³⁴ So do not worry or be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries and anxieties of its own. **Sufficient for each day** is its own trouble.”*

- The Father knows... my faith increase in proportion to my knowing and I do this by seeking Him, by knowing I'm right with Him, and doing things His way.

So, I have been digging back into the kingdom of God. **God's original plan** was to extend His heavenly Kingdom on a physical planet called earth. God's intent was to **create a family to accomplish the extension** of His Kingdom on the earth.

God's strategy was to fill His family with His Spirit so they would stay connected to Him in Heaven and they can extend His Kingdom on earth. The connection of His Kingdom coming to earth is His Spirit, the Holy Spirit

His first and original assignment for mankind was to have dominion.

Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV "Then God said, "Let Us make man (trey) in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them (trey) **have dominion** over the

*fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over ^[g]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”²⁷ So God created man (trey) in His own image; in the image of God He created (trey) him; male and female He created them.²⁸ Then **God blessed (trey) them**, and God said to them (trey), “**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that ^[h]moves on the earth.”*

Image -tsekem- essential nature; copy; characteristic; true substance

Likeness- is exact duplication in kind. The exact duplication is a little lower because it's a duplication. To function like He does (**Ephesians 5:1**)

Dominion- radah- govern, rule, control, master, have authority, to lead; to dominate with His nature; **responsible** for reigning over a designated territory (What territory are we called to?)

Here is how we dominate. **To Bless**- to empower to prosper, empower to excel, empower to succeed, empower to increase. **Be Fruitful**-productive, to bring forth, to create. **Multiply**-reproduce your productivity, increase in number, increase in development; **Replenish or fill**-distribute, resupply, renew, restock, to fill; **subdue**- keep it under or control the market and have **dominion**. This is our mandate.

Purpose and destiny of mankind was rulership and dominion over the earth. God the Father never intended to rule the earth directly. He wants to rule the earth through man. When Jesus referred to the Father, He would refer to Him being in Heaven. **We want what God wants which is His original purpose.**

God created a family of kings, rulers, mankind to set the standard.

The original goal of God for man was the establishment of His kingdom on earth through His sons.

Jesus let us know His mission, His purpose, He didn't want us to guess what His assignment was.

Matthew 4:17 NKJV *"¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"*

this is the first public statement of Jesus. This was His mission statement.

Repent, means to change your thinking. **He brought back a kingdom not a religion**

SO HOW DO WE OPERATE IN THE KINGDOM?

Matthew 16:13-19 NKJV *"¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."¹⁵ He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**"¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not ^[g]prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth ^[h]will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" where statements that were reserved for the messiah, the deliverer

The religious people of the day had information but here Peter had revelation.

Church- Ecclesia- means "Called out ones". Is a governmental term and not a religious term. The emperor or the king would call out certain individuals, to receive his thoughts, desires, his passions and his intentions.

They were supposed to make sure that the king's heart and desires were carried out and that is what He calls us "His Church". Jesus wasn't establishing a religion but a kingdom.

The church is trusted with information from the king on how to operate His kingdom. And these individuals, even the gates of hell won't prevail against them.

Matthew 16:19 NKJV *"And I will give you the **keys of the kingdom** of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth ^[h]will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

He didn't say "keys to the kingdom" but "keys of the kingdom". We came into the kingdom and the kingdom came into us when we were born again. But now "the keys of the kingdom" will unlock the power of the kingdom to make it work in our life.

The keys have to be learned, Jesus knew them and wanted the disciples to use the keys to unlock healing, peace, prosperity, and authority. Jesus expects the keys to work the same way for the church as they did for Him.

John 14:12-14 NKJV ¹² *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ^[g]ask anything in My name, I will do it."*

The key is "Jesus Name" to be used in line with His word and will.

He shows them how to use the keys in this passage.

Matthew 14:15-21 NKJV ¹⁵ *When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat. (Key)"¹⁷ And they said to Him, "We have here only five*

loaves and two fish."¹⁸ He said, "Bring them here to Me."¹⁹ Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.²⁰ So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.²¹ Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children."

Jesus wanted them to use a key but all they could see was what was in the natural and in the kingdom we "walk by faith and not by sight"- **2 Corinthians 5:7**

Jesus was showing them how to unlock the resources of heaven and He tells us to do what He did, in His name!

Lets look at some principals that define keys:

1. **Keys represent authority.** When you have a key to something, you have authority. When you have a key to your house, your vehicles, etc... you have authority there.

Matthew 16:19 NKJV "And I will give you the **keys of the kingdom** of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth ^[h]will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

V19 Ampc. " I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth ^[i]must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth ^[i]must be what is already loosed in heaven."

V19 Message "And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven."

V 19 Passion *"I will give you the Keys of heaven's kingdom realm to forbid on earth that which is forbidden in heaven, and to release on earth that which is released in heaven."*

He is saying the same authority I have, I am giving you. He still desires for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. He is still pointing back to His original Kingdom assignment for man. Know His heart for us!

Matthew 28:18,19 NKJV *"¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**¹⁹ Go ^[c]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* ^[d]Amen."

You see where He transferred His authority and told them to go, do and He would back them up. We have learned that He commanded them to do what He did and to teach what He taught which is the kingdom. He was telling them to use their keys.

Matthew 10:7,8 NKJV *"⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven ^[c]is at hand.⁸ Heal the sick, ^[d]cleanse the lepers, ^[e]raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."*

2. **Keys represent access.** Keys give you access to everything that key opens. So its important to know what the key opens. We have to use them for them to work.

The keys of the kingdom give you access to all the resources of heaven. Know that it is possible to us who believe and to us when we don't walk by sight or how we feel.

A kingdom mindset changes our perspective!

2 Kings 6:14-17 NKJV *"Therefore he (the king) sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ And*

when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"¹⁶ So he answered, "**Do not fear**, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."¹⁷ And **Elisha prayed, and said, (key) "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.** And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

Elisha's servant, who didn't know the key or how to use it was afraid.

Elisha, knew the key and how to use it and unlocked heaven and brought angels to protect them. The keys in the kingdom are greater than anything the world has.

3. **Keys represent control.** When you have the keys, you control what time it opens and closes. There is a key but we need to find it and use it.

1 Kings 17:8-16 NKJV "Then the word of the Lord came to him, (key) saying,⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, (key) "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink."¹¹ And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."¹² So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a [a]jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."¹³ And Elijah said to her, "**Do not fear**; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son."¹⁴ For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'¹⁵ So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate

for many days. ¹⁶ The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah."

Elijah was offering the woman a key and once she took it and applied it, she unlocked heavens provision.

A key unlocks your thinking. It shifted from the circumstances to the kingdom and the provision of God.

4. **Keys represent authorization.** When you have a key given to you by the owner then you are given authority to act in their name

Jesus has given us the keys and has authorized us to act in His name on His authority, to request what we need according to His will.

5. **Keys represent power.** We have power over whatever the keys unlock.

When we know how to use the keys, whatever they unlock is at our disposal. If we have keys to our house, we have power in our house.

Jesus gave us keys of the kingdom so we have power in the kingdom. God doesn't want us to be victims to this earths system. He has given us power in heaven and on earth. He wants us to operate in the kingdom just like He originally designed.

6. **Keys represent freedom.** With keys we are free to go in and out. We are free to lock and unlock, open and close

Remember in the above situation, the keys gave freedom from fear and limitations.

Mark 4:35-41 NKJV ³⁵ *On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." (Key) ³⁶ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern,*

*asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace,^[g] be still! (**key**)" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.⁴⁰ But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How^[h] is it that you have no faith?"⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"*

Why are you afraid? Where did you put your keys?

What kind of man is this? A man with keys and He has given us the keys to freedom but we must know them and use them.

John 8:31,32 NKJV *"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

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