

FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM

God sent three Spiritual Awakenings to turn Judah back to its responsibility as Divine Agency in the Plan of God in the world.

- **First Spiritual Awakening** occurred in reign of King Jehoshaphat, 4th king of Judah (2 Chron.17:3-6; 22:9).
- **Second Spiritual Awakening** occurred in reign of King Hezekiah, 13th king of Judah (2 Chron.29:1-11).
- **Third Spiritual Awakening** occurred in reign of King Josiah, 16th king of Judah (2 Chron.34:1-7, 14, 24-33; 35:18-19).

The similarity of these three spiritual awakenings is important to America and especially to the 21st century church of America. The importance of the similarity is that both were and are Divine Agencies of the Work and Word of God (1 Pet.2:9).

- **First Spiritual Awakening** spread through-out the colonies of America in the 18th century. Spiritually mature believers like Wesley brothers, Jonathan Edwards, and Whitefield had caught the Great Spiritual Awakening of Europe.
 - This resulted in pre-eminence of the gospel over:
 - Religious traditions
 - Faith over sight
 - Scriptures over culture
 - Spirituality over carnality
 - The individual believer's (CAB) priesthood over the ecclesiastical priesthood.
- **Second Spiritual Awakening** spread across America through evangelism and the establishing of churches in the 19th and 20th centuries. Spiritually mature believers like Hudson Taylor, Geo.Mueller, Charles Finney, D.L.Moody, B.B. Warfield, Billy Sunday, and Billy Graham led it.

A Third Spiritual Awakening is needed NOW in 21st century.

This 4th of July lesson will study three aspects of **FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM**.

- 1. The common denominator is that all of these spiritual awakenings were led by spiritually mature believers of the Divine Agency.**

NOTE: We have been in a **cultural war** over the five Divine Institutions set down by God for the soul of America. At the same time, we are in a **scriptural war** over Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD) for the soul of the church. "Holding to the form of godliness, although they have denied its power." (2 Tim.3:5, 7; 4:3-5)

Spiritually mature believers must be willing to go outside of the church to American neighborhoods with the gospel and be willing to disciple believers in the Word of God, Categorically taught. (Acts 1:8; 5:27-33).

We need to do this FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

2. Our lesson title was taken from the story of the Rich Young Ruler (Lk.18:29).

We will examine Luke 18:18-34 by the following three homiletic points regarding three important EXCHANGES.

- The exchange of questions regarding eternal life (Lk.18:18-21)
- The exchange of concepts of cost of following Christ (Lk.18:22-30)
- The exchange of biblical truth regarding person and work of Christ (Lk.18:31-34)

In our lesson text, Jesus addressed three types of persons:

- **The Religious Rich Young Ruler** (Lk.18:18-27)
- **His follower, Peter** (Lk.18:28-30)
- **The Doctrinally confused disciples** (Lk.18:31-34).

3. These three EXCHANGES are important For the Sake of the Kingdom of God.

The exchange with the Religious Rich Young Ruler: “One thing you lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor; and you shall have treasures in heaven; **come, follow Me. But when** he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.” (Lk.18:22-23) [Eternal Life]

The exchange with His follower, Peter: “Peter said, ‘Behold, **we have left** our own homes and followed You.’ And He said to them, ‘**Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left** house or wife or brothers or parents or children, **for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much as at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.**’” (Lk.18:28-30) [The cost of following Christ]

The exchange with His Doctrinally confused disciples: “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.” (Lk.18:31) “But the disciples understood none of these things, and the meaning of this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.” (Lk.18:34) [Biblical truth of the person and work of Christ].

These three groups of persons are in the church today. They all have an interest in following Christ and some even having made a commitment. But because of a lack of knowledge of Categorical Biblical Doctrine (CBD) TRUTH, their failure to fulfill their commitment comes at a high price (Matt.16:21-23; 26:31-35, 74-75; Lk.22:31-32).

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WE have become daily pre-occupied with good things but non-essential

FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM?

Who among us is willing to make life changing EXCHANGES that will take us out of our comfort zones of life’s expectations?

The answer to these types of questions will determine whether we are the church that can be a leader in this much needed Spiritual Awakening and engaged in the Good Fight of Faith for the soul of America!