

### **THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

“The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.”

Luke 20: 34

One of the seminal revelations to us as human beings that has come from Jesus of Nazareth is that God is love and this same God has a kingdom where love lives. AND we are all given an invitation to live in that kingdom for all eternity once we die. Jesus himself issued the invitation from that God whom He called his Father. The way by which we enter into this kingdom is in and through the decisions and choices we make in our lives here on earth. If we strive, with the grace and assistance of Our Lord, to live his way as best we can and love God and love our neighbor then the Lord in his goodness will gather us to himself on the last day and shepherd us into his kingdom.

If, on the other hand, we choose to opt for our own will and our own desires and live only and primarily in terms of the way we see things and do things then we will not accept the invitation to live in the world of love that is the Kingdom of God. The freedom to make such decisions has been given to us by the God who created us. Any failures and sins on our part do not have to derail our efforts to live kingdom values in this life because Jesus himself brought God’s forgiveness to us and breathed it upon us from the cross itself and in the Upper Room after the resurrection. Forgiveness is always available.

But the kingdom of God, while filled with love, will not be exactly the same as life on this earth. And that is the point that Jesus seeks to make in his remarks today. For example, what we call marriage, the union in God of a man and a woman for their love and unity and the perpetuation of the human race, is decidedly a lifestyle for this world and not for the next. There is no need to form exclusive union in the kingdom of God because there are no limits on love there. That does not mean that those who were living a loving relationship in their marriage here are somehow discounted in the fullness of kingdom life but that their marriage relationship will not perdure—only their love. We are to trust the Lord on this as on everything He has revealed for He only wants what is the best for us and we do not yet see fully or truly. His ways are not our ways. Can we accept that truth? That is the question of the week.

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