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**NEWS & EVENTS – MARCH 2022**

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There is a Kingdom Coming...are you ready? I've been dwelling a lot on that lately. Jesus is coming...His arrival will be right on time. There is a time at the beginning and the end of every journey when we are met with expectations. In **Luke 19**, Jesus and others were approaching Jerusalem. There were many expectations. The multitudes of people, including disciples and adversaries, had seen great miracles and heard godly teaching. Because they were near Jerusalem, people expected the appearance of the Kingdom of God. Because the King was near Jerusalem the expectation from some was that the journey was over. The Kingdom of God would supplant these earthly kingdoms. It was prophesied. Now was the time. Except Jesus had told his disciples earlier that certain things would happen once He got to Jerusalem. He would be persecuted, prosecuted, and executed. Then He would rise from the dead. His future after that reality is something they did not understand. Therefore, the purpose of the parable was to give some insight where the expectations of the Kingdom were concerned. Those expectations of the Kingdom of God immediately appearing to subjugate the nations and overturn the worldly dominion was not to be realized. The King of the Kingdom must do what He came to do before the next step could proceed. Once Jesus rose from the dead, His journey was not at His final destination. He would depart from this realm. That was the expectation. It was not the time for the final act. Those expecting an immediate resolution to the rebellion against the King and His Kingdom would have to wait. The King was scheduled for a departure. Jesus was going to a distant destination to receive a Kingdom for Himself. Then He will return. So the story goes. Our King is coming back. That is our hope. That is our expectation. He *will* return...and we should consistently expect Him to do so. When the King returns, we should expect He will inspect what His slaves have done with what they had been given. In the parable the nobleman gives the same amount of monetary investment to ten of his slaves. Then they were instructed to do business with this until he returned. This parable is often told to teach how to handle *our* money. It's really the King's money. But the instruction to *do business* means to *occupy* till the King returns. The word connects us to the source of where we get our understanding for the meaning of the word *pragmatic*. Pragmatic living is dealing with things as they are...realistically and sensibly from the King's perspective. The Kingdom of God is real. And we who wait on its coming can easily miss the message that the Kingdom of God is at hand...it's at hand. It's within us. And it's coming. It has already arrived when the King came to do what He came to do. It's still progressively arriving. King Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost. The King expects His slaves to occupy till He returns, doing business about the business of the King's business. A disciple of Christ is to put to use what they were given by the King. It's much more than money management. But it is management. What will the King expect of those with whom He has made an investment of Himself? We should expect an accounting. What have we done with what we've been given to advance the Kingdom agenda? He has given us LIFE. To invest that Christlike life with others. Has our life with Christ made a difference in the lives of others? Jesus won't be concerned with whether the mina (or money) we have has been multiplied into a great return on investment, or at least in the bank earning interest, or hidden and hoarded away for safekeeping. Our life in Christ is given for living. Our life in Christ is given for giving out. Our lives as disciples should be influenced by Christ if we're thinking about His life at all. This is how disciples can really learn to live. But then there are the rebels that are mentioned in the story in such a way that it's hard to miss. The citizens hated him and even delivered a message sent by a delegation. This man was not the desired choice to reign over them. The truth about rebels is that they don't want *any* king to rule over them. The expectation of the returning King is that He will establish authority. Kingdoms will be judged for their rebellion. There is only one King of Kings in the Kingdom of God. There will be judgment upon the rebellion of the citizens of all the earth since they reject King Jesus in their lives and lifestyles. Pilate's question in **Matthew 27** resounds through the generations and still relevant in our day. It resonates to all on a personal level for our contemplation... *Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?* The judgment upon the rebels who would not live under the nobleman's authority amounts to a death sentence. That sends a message. Following Jesus, obediently acting upon His influential authority, brings Life.

Choose Life. Follow Jesus. Celebrate the Resurrection today as you expect His presence. Come, Lord Jesus!

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam