

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG140 – This Me Generation vs. the Kingdom

Hello and welcome to the podcast. I brought a podcast recently that I entitled, *Understanding the Kingdom of God*. In some ways, this podcast is a follow up on that. If you have not heard that podcast, I encourage you to go to hargraveministries.org and listen to it. It is free for the asking, so check it out, study that, then come back and listen to this podcast again. The reason I want to bring this addition is because of a deep concern I have for what appears to be happening in the age around us. I feel like we are living in the midst of a “me” generation, so I am titling this podcast, *This Me Generation vs The Kingdom*. I think where my concern lies is the fact that everything has become so much “me, me, me” in this age that we are living in. Seriously, I know there is a lot of weirdness going on; but if you look behind it, what you see is people’s focus on themselves. It is all about me – you see that it is about, “What do I get? What do I deserve? What reparations should I have? What free housing, what free education should I get? What gender am I?” Everything is about me and what is happening with me and surrounding me and for me. It is just a “me, me, me” generation that we live in.

I think this is unfortunate, because I believe it has come about really as a perversion of the American goal that we have, where we believe in a theme of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This, to me, has been twisted into a concept that is making it all about me. When we talk about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, it was not to create a generation that was focused on itself; instead, it was to create a country that was focused on the whole of the government, and the participation of the individuals in that. And as much as you were driven for your life and your liberty, you were driven for that of your neighbor. It had more of the concept that we find in the Scriptures, that you love your neighbor as yourself, and you give to your neighbor; that you lay your life down for someone, which we have seen in generation after generation in this country, with servicemen and servicewomen literally laying their lives down for the lives of others, for the liberty of others, and for the happiness of others – and in so doing, giving others the ability to pursue a life of fulfillment. This has been the concept of America. But I believe it has been twisted, and the paradigm that originally was being sought has been perverted into that which makes it be all about me, all about the individual. And whenever you are focused on you, no matter how simple it seems, you by definition are taking away from others. So we find in this day and age that in pursuit of our own liberties and our own rights, we accomplish those rights and liberties now by taking away the rights and the liberties of others.

I do not know what to call this other than a perversion. I think it is something that we also see really as a result of what we find in church over many, many years, when we talk about a paradigm of heaven. The idea that church has preached a concept of salvation in heaven, which is a little off, has also created this paradigm about the fact that heaven is all about me. It is all about me living in eternal bliss in paradise; and, “I can’t wait to be in heaven, because when I get to heaven, everything is going to be wonderful. I am going to be happy, and I am going to have every tear wiped away from my eyes.” And again, look behind it – because as subtle, even, as it may seem, it is all about the individual. It’s me, me, me. This is really an age, I think, that we are living in. I know for sure that this is a deep, ingrained problem in this country of America; but I also believe it is something that we find in many other countries and nations

around the world. And the problem with this, at this particular time in history, is the fact that this lifestyle, this mentality, these paradigms, are so absolutely in conflict with the Kingdom of God, and with what God is trying to do in these last days to bring about and manifest His Kingdom in the earth. We need to understand that the Kingdom of God is all about the Lordship of Christ. It is about the Lordship of Yeshua, it is about our submission to Him in His Kingdom, and it is about His eternal reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. It is about the will of the Father being done on earth and in heaven; and it is about His eternal reign, God's eternal reign, as the eternal God, having all things in subjection to Himself, that He might fill all things; and it is about seeing Him worshiped and served by His creation, because He is the Creator. And no matter how wonderful we think we are as humans or as mankind, we are created to serve and worship Him. This is Christ's purpose in coming, not only to bring salvation, but to bring His Lordship and dominion as the King of kings, the Lord of lords. The One who is seated at the right hand of the Father will reign until every foe and everything is brought into subjection to His Lordship.

The reason this mentality concerns me so deeply is because people are being literally programmed to resist and reject the Kingdom of God, and to reject the very premise of the Kingdom of God – which is that there is something greater than you. The focus of eternity is not about you. The focus of church is not supposed to be you; it is supposed to be Christ, who came to win our salvation as Messiah, but also to be exalted after His resurrection as Lord at the right hand of the Father, to reign until everything is brought in objection to His feet, until He then is able to submit all things to the Father. That is what it is about. And when you look very deeply at this mentality, it is absolutely set that nothing be more important than me. Nothing be over me; nothing can rule over me, even my biology can't rule over me. Science can't rule over me. I can choose today what I want to be – even my gender is flexible into whatever I happen to feel. You have to see how absolutely perverse that is, flying in the face of the reality, the truth, that God is your Creator. He creates you. He creates your gender. He creates your gifts, your talents, your enabling, your ability. He is the one who gives free choice. You don't give yourself free choice, it was something given. So all of these things, again, are very, very concerning to me in this time that we are in, because I feel like much of mankind in this generation is being set up by satan to be almost tricked into judgment.

I want to read a Scripture in Luke the nineteenth chapter. I am going to read several verses here, because we have to get this story across. This is one of the parables where Yeshua is talking about the Kingdom of God. He is trying to give an example by using a parable so that we, in our humanity, in our human minds, can understand really what the Kingdom of God is like. There are many, many parables like that, and I encourage you to read all of them; because all of them would help with this point that we are making in this podcast about the Kingdom, and how the Kingdom operates and functions, and about the fact that it is not just about you. It is about what you are doing in your service to Him and in your submission to Him.

Luke 19, starting with verses 11-15. It says, "While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately." They expected Him to take the throne as king and to boot out the rulership of Rome. They were literally looking for a king to rule over them; they were looking for a lord to be over them. The Jewish people understood this. Going on in verse 12, this is the parable: "So He said, 'A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, "Do business with this until I come back." But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, "We do not want this man to reign over

us.”” This parable is taking on two parts here. The first part is that before he went, he called his slaves. There were people that did submit to Him, submitted to His Lordship, who saw the vision, the revelation of who He was and what was going on. They were relating to Him as the King, as the Lord, before He was crucified, before He ascended into heaven. And so, He begins to talk about His relationship with those who are already in subjection to Him, in submission to Him. He gives them ten minas and says to them, “Do business with this until I come back.” He is telling them how they are going to live on the earth while He is gone. But then you have these other citizens, and they hate him; and they send a delegation after him, saying, “We do not want this man to reign over us.”

“When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done.” The parable goes on for many verses, talking about how each of them came before Him and showed what they had done with the minas, and if they had made money or not made money with it. So first of all, He deals with those who were His slaves. When He is finished with that, then we go to verse 26. He says, “I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.” He is concluding now this idea of the slaves, and how it works when somebody is submitting to Him on the level that they were submitting to Him, showing the relationship that they will have to Him; because things have to be brought into ultimate, total submission to that Lordship, not just partial.

Then verse 27, “But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.” Now, that seems very radical, but I think it is very, very much a cautionary parable. God is warning us, Christ is warning us with this parable; and it disturbs me, because I believe we are living in the generation when the society is saying, “We do not want this man to rule over us.” Remember, that was what the citizens said in verse 14: “His citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, “We do not want this man to reign over us.”” That is what is coming and manifesting in this generation. People do not want anything or anybody to be over them, they do not want themselves to be in submission or subjection to anyone else’s rules or regulations. The problem with it is, that is not the Kingdom of God. And this may be what has happened in America. In a sense, I think some of the original goals and ideas of America in its founding have come around to bite us in the rear end, so to speak; because these principles were really based on the fact that people lived with a Judeo-Christian morality and understanding. With that being gone from our country, then there are many principles that were set in motion that can be perverted, as they have been, into this idea that it is all about me: “America is all about me. And not only that, America has failed in what it should have been to me and what it should have given me; and it should have given me more, and it should have provided more. And now, I want reparation, and I want more today to make up for what I haven’t received.” When the fact is that America worked because everyone was a giver. Everyone was inputting into, not taking away from; this was part of the basic human state when these things were done. That no longer exists. That is no longer at the root of people’s lives. People have disintegrated into this “me” generation; and honestly, I think it is a plan of satan, if you will, to have that happen.

I want you to remember that this is the way satan works. It is the way he worked with Balaam, where he couldn’t curse the children of Israel directly, which is what Balak wanted him to do. But instead, what he did was that he taught Balak how to get the people to live a life of sin and idolatry and adultery, until God Himself would have to come and judge Israel; because satan was incapable of destroying Israel and God’s choosing of Israel to be His people, and the land of Israel to be their land. I think we are looking at something that follows that pattern. You know, satan may be very wily, but he is not necessarily very

creative; he can't create anything, he can only work within the boundaries of what God has created. But he does understand that if he can't destroy you, if he can't destroy mankind, he works at this ability to have God destroy. And in fact, in the Scriptures, that did work. It worked that the people violated, they worshiped other gods, they intermarried with other peoples. They sinned, they walked away from God. They left His principles, His laws, and they stopped walking with Him. And in fact, God did bring judgment upon that generation, and it was a devastating result; and in some ways, those consequences are still being lived out. But it concerns me, because I see similar things transpiring in this age. Remember, our battle is not against flesh and blood; it is against the principalities and powers, the spirits of wickedness in heavenly places, that are coming against this humanity. And one of the ways it comes against this humanity is that it attempts to manipulate you into a place where God has to become your enemy; satan wants God to become your enemy and have to judge you because of your violation and your refusal to submit to Him.

That was satan's big falling point: he wanted to exalt himself above God and refuse to submit himself to God. Remember, the heavenly hosts, just like humanity, were created with a free will. That is why angels fell, satan fell, because they chose to worship themselves; they were their own me, me, me generation before humanity ever thought about it. And so, in my mind, from a biblical point of view and perspective, what is happening in this generation is that it is being sucked into a very similar situation. Of course, we don't learn from history; and so, we are following a pattern that has transpired before, in which mankind is being set up for God to judge him. That is satan's endgame, because he can't destroy you. He can't destroy you, but he knows God can. And he wants to bring this generation to a place where as God is manifesting His Kingdom in these end days, the citizenry of the world will reject Him and say, "We do not want this guy to rule over us. We do not want Christ to rule over us. We do not want Him to be the King. We do not want Him to be our Lord. We want to be our own lord. We want to serve ourselves. We want to be what is important, and we want to follow whatever we choose to follow." Take my word for it, it is not going to work. And it is a very, very dangerous game that people are playing – it is called eternal judgment and damnation.

I want to make a few points before I end this podcast. Number one, this "me" generation may reject being subjected to the Lordship of Christ, or at least try to reject being subjected; but remember what the Scripture says: He will reign until He has made every enemy the footstool of His feet, and everything will be brought into subjection to Christ and to His Lordship. Number two, the American ideal of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness has been perverted into a me-worshipping generation; and we pray that that be ended. Number three, the Kingdom of God will manifest, and it will be in direct opposition to this mentality by imposing the Lordship of Christ with its subjecting of all things under Christ. The Lord will break the deception and judge the principalities that are set to see this generation destroyed. That is my prayer, and I hope it is your prayer. I hope that we continue to pray that the Lord break this deception and judge the principalities that are set to see this generation destroyed.

Lastly, I just want to say again: remember, this is how satan works; he manipulates people so that God becomes their enemy and must judge them for their disobedience, because of his inability to destroy them.

Lord, let these words live for us. Let them be a parable of warning to us in this day and age, as we see this "me" generation in their affront to the Kingdom of God coming forth. We bless it, and we believe that we are going to see things change and break through, and see the Kingdom manifest on this earth. Amen.