

What on Earth are You Doing for Heaven's Sake in 2025?

The hymn, "We've A Story to Tell To The Nations" declares, "We've a story to tell to the nations, That shall set their hearts to the right. A story of truth and mercy, A story of peace and light. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, a kingdom of love and light." Are you sharing the story of Christ to all? We pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven", but do we have we any idea what we are praying when we ask for the kingdom of God to come and the will of God to be done? The kingdom of God is the reign of God over human hearts. The kingdom of God is present. John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." When Jesus sent his disciples out to preach the Good News. The sermon was exactly the same, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." This kingdom, said Jesus, may be as small as a mustard seed, or as quiet as yeast in bread, but powerful things come in small packages and don't necessarily make a lot of noise. We do not create the kingdom of God; we only claim it. We do not build the kingdom of God; we only bow to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

The Kingdom of God Is Priceless! It is the most valuable discovery you can make in your life. Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a man plowing a field. He doesn't own the field. He's just tending the ground. But the old plow uncovers a buried treasure that changes the man forever. It was more important than any other find he had ever made in his life. So, he sells everything to possess that one piece of land. The kingdom of God is that important. To surrender everything that we may enter the Kingdom of Heaven! The kingdom of God, said Jesus, is like a merchant shopping for fine pearls. He discovers a pearl worth more than everything he owns. So, sacrificing everything, he purchases the one pearl of great value. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like that." It is costly, but it's worth it. Jesus demands and deserves our all. I guess that's our problem with Christianity, isn't it? If we could give Jesus the leftovers, just a little bit of devotion here and there, just a little bit of attention, just a little part of our lives, just a little section of our days, it would be okay to have a tinge of religion. Yet Christ dares to come to us amid our lives and say, 'I want all of you.' Surrendering all to Christ is worth the price. We cannot receive the kingdom of God until our kingdom goes! We cannot experience the Kingdom of Heaven if we are trying to build our own kingdom! The follower of Christ must daily ask, what do I need to give up, let go of, turn loose, surrender, in order to experience the fullness of God in my soul?

The kingdom of God is here and now, but it is also not yet. Those who have eyes to see can embrace what is yet to be and yet to come. Someday Kleenexes will be discontinued, and funeral homes will go out of business. Caskets will be converted into toy chests. Someday the darkness will turn to dawn and night will be no more. Someday God will reign as King of kings and Lord of Lords. Happy are those who by faith know that it is going to be all right even when it is all wrong. The kingdom of God, said Jesus, is like a dragnet of fish from the lake. Some are fit to eat, and others need to be thrown away. But for now, they remain mixed with the good and the bad, the beautiful and the ugly, the tasty and the terrible, the helpful and the horrible. Lord, give us faith to know it's going to be all right even when it feels all wrong. There is a prayer that says, "The things, Good Lord, that we pray for, give us the courage to work for." The will of God is not as much a mystery as we would like for it to be. The will of God can be known, it can be found. It is the will of God for there to be Peace on earth through Jesus Christ and that those who receive him as Lord and Savior shine His light and love and bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). It is the will of God that we love one another and forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven us and that we serve one another as Christ served us. It is the will of God that we are good stewards of all creation. It is the will of God that the lost be found so that no one perish, no, not one. It is the will of God that the least be helped. If we care enough to pray the prayer, then we have a responsibility to embrace the will of God, it can be found. Jesus said, "Whoever does God's will is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Mark 35:25). I want to leave you with this very important question as you start this new year: What on earth are you doing for Heaven's sake? I believe with all my heart that the will of God will never lead you where the grace of God will not keep you. Will you say, "Here I am Lord, fully, totally, completely, unreservedly, and immediately available to do whatever you ask?" Blessed are those who are willing to follow Jesus all the way.