

It's On the Inside

Luke 17:20-21 (KJV) - ²⁰ And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: ²¹ Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Giving Honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. To the men, women, and children of God. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to the book of Luke 17:20-21 (KJV) as we lift up the Lord Our God. Our didactic sermon topic is "It's On the Inside."

I'd like to begin by mentioning the vibrant colors (red and white) of the Campbell's Soup Can. There is a street-style artist and illustrator by the name of Sophia Chang who reimagined the Campbell's Soup Can. The redesigned label modernizes the logo and script while paying homage to the original label from 1898. As beautiful as the Campbell's soup can is... the real truth is that the yummy to our tummy ingredients are on the inside, and I'm convinced that it is that fact which truly makes the soup so good. The many slogans affiliated with the Campbell Company range from: It's amazing what soup can do, fill up on the good stuff, could've had a v-8, M'm! M'm! Good!, the soup that eats like a meal, *and its in there!* Yes, yes, yes. Today, I want to stay with that thought – it's in there and to put it plainly, "It's On the Inside."

As we look at the text, we notice that there was a particular day when the Pharisees questioned Jesus about the "what" of this didactic. The "what" is the Kingdom. They wanted to know when the kingdom of God would come. Jesus replied that for the present time, it's coming wouldn't be some great event that one could see, watch, or observe. One would not even be able to point to a particular town and say "There it is!" But the kingdom of God must begin in the individual. Yes, it begins within a transformed life. It **begins inside of you and inside of me.** Romans 12:1-2 says "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." I came to remind you today that there is nothing new under the sun. God created you in His own image. You are

amazing. You are intelligent. You are beautiful. God is still working on your life. He's more for you than the whole world against you. What the bible says you are, you are. What the bible says you can have, you can have. What the bible say you can do, you can do. You can do all things through Christ, who strengthens you. (Phil. 4:13)

Have you been waiting for the Kingdom to Come? Like the Jews, you may be waiting for God's physical kingdom to come upon the earth, and it will arrive physically one day, but for now, focus on becoming a disciple of the Lord's invisible army. Spend some quality time with the Lord in prayer, study His word, and fellowship with like believers.

Joseph found out that He had something good on the inside of Himself, while He was in a wrestling match. You see in Genesis 32, verse 24-30, the word says that Jacob and a man wrestled until daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." Good God Almighty. If you would allow me to share it in this vernacular? The name Jacob actually means trickster, or you are who they say you are, but during a divine appointment with a divine touch, Jacob receives a blessing which helps him to realize that he (Jacob) is no longer a trickster but there is a nation inside of him and it's called Israel.

In closing,

You are above and not beneath. You are the head and not the tail. You are more than conquerors, thorough Christ Jesus, who loves us. (Romans 8:37) You have something on the inside of you and it's much better than Campbell's Soup. If Jacob could tell us today about that wrestling match. He might say, "Something Got a Hold of Me." When the Lord touches your life. A transformation occurs and the Kingdom of God takes place on the inside of you. The Lord says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. "To the one who conquers I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father

on his throne. (Revelations 3:20-21) *It's On the Inside of You.* Amen.