

God Is Government

Isaiah 33:22

*“For the LORD is our judge, the
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD
is our king; he will save us.”*



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MANKIND

PART TWENTY

Our sovereignty while controlled by a single source, you and I, is based upon our own belief systems. These belief systems are influenced by a number of outside influencers but are allowed to control our sovereignty when we let them. This is extremely important in order to understand not only your daily sovereignty issues but the bigger picture where we need to strive allowing God to control our entire sovereignty. We find many of these examples in the Bible. One such example we will use for this document publication – The Prodigal Son.



I would like to look at at this familiar parable that Jesus tells in Luke 15, one that has some reamifications that many people miss. We all know about the Prodigal Son. What is a prodigal? It is someone who spends recklessly, as the younger son does in this story:

“11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.”

- Luke 15:11-13

First of all, it was an audacious, disrespectful thing for the younger son to seek his inheritance while his father was still alive. The father gives in, but it was still quite vulgar in that culture. What does the young man do with his father’s money? He throws big parties, buys himself a Lamborghini. He pretends he is a rock star – until the money runs out.

“14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.”

- Luke 15:14-16

As soon as his funds are tapped out, the young man’s friends magically disappear. Nobody takes him in, and he is forced to go make himself a servant. Not only does he have to go feed the animals, but the animals are pigs. He is still Jewish, and he is now having to feed unclean swine out in the fields. He is so hungry he would eat pig food, but he does not even get that much. We Gentiles have to be careful not to miss things because we fail to see things from a Jewish perspective. In the Gentile mind, this is pretty bad, but in a Jewish mind it is as desperately low as anybody can get.

At this point, the young man’s ego is absolutely gone, and he finally comes to his senses:

“17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.”

- Luke 15:17-19

He has an epiphany. His father’s servants are treated well, and he might as well seek to be hired in his father’s house. He is truly humbled at this point, and he also feels that he has lost his sonship. He is no longer worried about what he will look like. He just knows he will be better off if he can just get hired as a servant. He plans out what he is going to say, and he makes the trip home.

“And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.”

- Luke 15:20

The young man is ready to give his speech, but the father does not even let him get it out. He runs and grabs him, hugging him and kissing him. The son is full of shame over his foolishness and failure. He recognizes how badly he has behaved, but the father does not care about all that. He is just glad to have his son home again.

“21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.”

- Luke 15:21-24

There are a few different dimensions here. No matter how badly the young man had fallen, he did not lose his sonship. Satan tries to convince us that our sin is too big for God to love us. He works hard to keep us from going back to our Father, reminding us of our sin over and over. The best thing we can do is ignore those whispers, and humbly go fall at God's feet.

“9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

- James 4:9-10

New Christians suffer from a typical trap. When they first repent and sincerely ask God to forgive their sins through Christ, they are filled with joy and peace. Then, a few days or weeks or months go by, and something catastrophic happens. They screw up and do something rotten and shameful. That is when Satan has a field day, because new Christians can easily feel that they are all cleaned up and taken care of up until that point. Then they realize they still have problems. They have stumbled and sinned, and they are confronted with their own continued frailty. They believe they are in huge trouble now. We have all been there. We have all felt like we have sinned in a way that is too terrible to be forgiven, and we want to hide from God.

I am indebted to many people for a particular precious insight. When shame hits us, we need to ask ourselves this question, ‘How many of my sins were yet future when Jesus hung on the cross?’ The answer is, ‘All of them.’ He died for all of them.

In fact, when we look at Ephesians chapter 1 we see the God planned for all of this before the foundation of the world.

“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

- Ephesians 1:3-14

When we come to Jesus Christ and receive Him as our Savior, our sins are forgiven, including the ones we commit next Tuesday or a year from now. That is not a license to sin, of course. “God forbid!” Paul says in Romans 6. However, when we fall, we know we can go tight to our Father who loves us, seek His forgiveness and continue walking hand-in-hand with Him.