

Repent, The Kingdom Of God Is At Hand - by Tim

December 22, 2004

I'm excited tonight that I get to tell all of you in one shot what Jesus has done for me. I'm 27 years old and for the last two and half years I've known Jesus. For the first 24 years of my life I've served the devil, but now Jesus has set me free. We have sung a lot about liberty and I can tell you for sure, Jesus has given me liberty. For the first 24 years of my life I went to church, I went to a Christian school, I led a bible study, I went to a bible school and I told people I loved Jesus with all my heart, but I was a servant of the devil. Because it doesn't matter what I say I do, and it doesn't matter if I say I love Jesus with all my heart, I was practicing sin. And the bible says, that if you practice sin, you will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. John the Baptist came before Jesus to prepare the way for Him. He had a simple message, he said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" When Jesus started His ministry He had a simple message, He said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" When Jesus sent out His disciples, He gave them a simple message, He said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" So I'm here tonight and I tell you, repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

Last night we heard about the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. We heard a lot about the kingdom of darkness and I want to tell you about the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is full of peace, it's full of joy and it's full of love. If you tell people you love Jesus with all your heart, but you're practicing sin, you don't know the peace of God, you don't know the love of God and you don't know the joy of God. I was in that place; I told people I loved Him with all my heart, but I did not know the joy of God, I did not know the love of God, I did not know His peace, my conscience condemned me. I don't want you to stand before Him and have Him say to you, "Away from Me, I never knew you!" He wants to give you life; He wants to give you life abundantly! He wants to feed you with the finest of wheat and the living water. For if you drink of that water, you will never thirst and if you eat of His flesh, you will never be hungry. He satisfies you like nothing else can. I tried it all; nothing satisfies you on this earth.

I want you to know Jesus. We all want eternal life; what is eternal life? Eternal life is to know the Father, and to know the Son whom He sent. I ask you tonight, do you know Him? Do you know Him? I'm not asking if you're a Christian, I'm asking you if you know Him. Do you know His peace and His joy? Do you know the love of God? Do you have love for your enemies? Do you have love for those who steal from you? Do you have love from those who speak evil of you? Do you have power over sin? Do you have freedom from sin? Do you have liberty over sin? This is liberty. This is liberty! It's not to dance, it's not to shout, it's freedom from sin! I can't tell you a greater joy, than to know, I don't lust anymore, I don't commit sexual immorality anymore, I don't have bitterness towards my father anymore. I have liberty!

I told you the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. What is the Kingdom of Heaven? The Kingdom of Heaven does not come with signs to be observed. I just told you what the Kingdom of Heaven is; the Kingdom of Heaven is in here. It is peace, it's joy, it's

righteousness when Jesus becomes King of your life. I never had the peace of God when there were other kings in my heart. Money was a king, sports were a king, women were a king, fame was a king and my career was a king. With Jesus, you can't have many kings. He is the King of Kings. He won't share your heart with anyone else. Do you want the Kingdom of Heaven? If you want it in your life, if you want to know the peace of God, if you want to know liberty, He has to be King: the only King. He's a jealous King; He won't share His Kingdom with anyone else. His Kingdom is your heart! He wants your heart; He wants all of you. I'm here to plead with you. Paul said that he was an ambassador of Jesus Christ. He had a message; it was a message of reconciliation. He wanted to reconcile people back to the Father. He pleaded with people; it was Jesus pleading through him. He was pleading with people to be reconciled back to God. So I plead with you tonight, you've heard the message now for six nights. You're going to hear it again tonight. I plead with you tonight, be reconciled to God! I'm not talking to unbelievers, or those who say they're not Christians, I'm talking to everyone. I'm asking you simply to be honest with God tonight. Is Jesus the only king in your life? I lied to myself; I was deceived by the devil. I want to spare you tonight from this same deception. Be honest with yourself tonight, is Jesus the only king? He must be the only king in your life. It's expensive; I won't lie to you. You'll have to get rid of the other kings.

There is a parable in the bible. Jesus says to what can we compare the Kingdom of Heaven to? He says the Kingdom of Heaven is like a great treasure, it may be buried in this field. While someone comes and finds that treasure, they go and sell everything they have so they can buy this field and have the treasure. He says the Kingdom of Heaven may also be compared to someone who buys great pearls and has lots of pearls. But then he finds the one pearl, the one pearl of great price. He sells every other pearl he has that he can buy that one pearl. That pearl, that treasure in the field, that's Jesus! It's His Kingdom. It's Him in your heart, ruling and reigning in peace, love and joy. John the Baptist said when he saw Jesus, "Behold, the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" He doesn't cover up the sin of the world; he came to take it away. If you want freedom tonight, if there's things in your heart that you know you can't have victory over, I'm here to tell you tonight, there's victory in Jesus. He'll take it away; He won't cover it up, He'll take it away. He wants to know though; He wants to know you're serious. He wants to know He can have all your heart. So I'm here to ask you one simple thing, please give all your heart to Jesus. Be honest with yourself tonight, is what you're living for tonight worth dying for? Maybe you're living for Jesus and praise God for that. But if you're not living for Jesus, then I plead with you tonight, give Him all your heart, you won't be disappointed. You will know peace, you will know joy, you will know the love of God and you will know the power of God. Paul gave a simple message; it was the message of the cross. If you're willing to die with Him, if you're willing to suffer with Him, if you're willing to die to your own desires, then you will live with Him—here and now. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, I am the life!" He wants to give you that life tonight. So I plead with you, count the cost tonight. Nothing compares with Jesus. Give him all your heart; make a commitment that you're willing to suffer with Him. Trust Him tonight, give Him your life and He won't disappoint you.

The bible says anyone who puts their trust in God will not be disappointed; whoever's strength is in Him, they will go from strength to strength. It also says the lovingkindness of God is for those who fear Him. So I ask you tonight, give your life for Jesus. It's been two and a half years since I made that decision. It's been two and a half of the most difficult years of my life. But, in the midst of it all, I have peace, I have joy, I have love, I have kindness, I have goodness, I have faithfulness, I have self-control. It's not me, for I've died, and my life is hidden with Christ in God; and the life I now live, I live by faith in Jesus! Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

I'm asking you tonight, come, come now! That's the message. Come now; give your heart to Jesus. I plead with you tonight; it's not a decision you will regret. I stand here as a testimony of what Jesus can do in someone's life when they give their hearts all for Jesus. It's not me; it's the power of Jesus. There's power in the blood of Jesus, there's power in the cross. If you're willing to get on the cross tonight you will know the life of Jesus. I ask you, come, give your life for Jesus and put your trust in Him. I'm not asking you if you're a Christian, I *said* I was a Christian, I'm simply asking, whatever you say you are, if your heart is not fully surrendered to Jesus, come and humble yourself tonight. He gives grace to the humble. I never knew the power of God; I never knew freedom from sin, until I humbled myself. If you feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit tonight, don't resist Him. Don't resist Him! The devil lies; he's the father of lies. He'll lie to you tonight, he'll tell you: "Another time," he'll tell you: "Tomorrow night," he'll tell you: "The next day, There's always tomorrow." Today is the day of salvation. Why would you want to leave here without knowing His peace? Why!? Come; come tonight.