



The Notes

A BETTER KINGDOM Part 2: "Close Enough Isn't Close Enough"

February 8th, 2026
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"Remember this: There are some terrible times coming in the last days. People will love only themselves and money. They will be proud and boast about themselves. They will abuse others with insults. They will not obey their parents. They will be ungrateful and against all that is pleasing to God. They will have no love for others and will refuse to forgive anyone. They will talk about others to hurt them and will have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. People will turn against their friends. They will do foolish things without thinking and will be so proud of themselves. Instead of loving God, they will love pleasure. They will go on pretending to be devoted to God, but they will refuse to let that 'devotion' change the way they live. Stay away from these people!"

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (ERV)

I KNOW I'M FALLING FOR A COUNTERFEIT KINGDOM IF...

1. ...I AM CONFUSING WHAT'S _____ OF ME WITH WHAT'S A _____.

"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding

grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (MSG)

"My brothers and sisters, I know you've heard this before, but stop playing favorites! Do not try to blend the genuine faith of our glorious Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, with your silly pretentiousness. If an affluent gentleman enters your gathering wearing the finest clothes and priceless jewelry, don't trip over each other trying to welcome him. And if a penniless bum crawls in with his shabby clothes and a stench fills the room, don't look away or pretend you didn't notice—offer him a seat up front, next to you. If you tell the wealthy man, 'Come sit by me; there's plenty of room,' but tell the vagrant, "Oh, these seats are saved. Go over there," then you'll be judging God's children out of evil motives."

James 2:1-4,9 (TVB)

2. ...I AM _____ BY "STRONG" LEADERS,
INSTEAD OF INSPIRED TO BE A _____ -
LEADER.

"Do not put your trust in the rulers of this world—kings and princes. Do not expect any rescue from mortal men. As soon as their breath leaves them, they return to the earth; on that day, all of them perish—their dreams, their plans, and their memories. Blessed are those whose help comes from the God of Jacob, whose hope is centered in the Eternal their God."

Psalm 146:3-5 (TVB)

“But Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT)

3. ...I AM LOOKING AT THE WORLD THROUGH AN LENS.

“You have been taught to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you this: love your enemies. Pray for those who torment you and persecute you—in so doing, you become children of your Father in heaven. He, after all, loves each of us—good and evil, kind and cruel. He causes the sun to rise and shine on evil and good alike. He causes the rain to water the fields of the righteous and the fields of the sinner. It is easy to love those who love you—even a tax collector can love those who love him. And it is easy to greet your friends—even outsiders do that! But you are called to something higher: ‘Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect.’”

Matthew 5:43-48 (TVB)

“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don’t condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you’ll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you’ll find

life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

Luke 6:37-38 (MSG)

“God is good to one and all; everything he does is soaked through with grace.”

Psalm 145:9 (MSG)