

# "HEAR YE HIM"

## A Devotional Series For Radio

This sermon script is furnished with  
the good wishes of the Reorganized Church  
of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

World Headquarters: The Auditorium, Independence, Missouri

Program Number 187  
Evan A. Fry, Radio Minister  
All Rights Reserved

The Sermon: KINGDOMS AND LAWS

Scripture: Doctrine and Covenants 85:6

The earth abideth the law of a celestial kingdom, for it filleth the measure of its creation, and transgresseth not the law. Wherefore it shall be sanctified; yet notwithstanding it shall die, it shall be quickened again, and shall abide the power by which it is quickened, and the righteous shall inherit it; for notwithstanding they die, they also shall rise again a spiritual body; they who are of a celestial spirit shall receive the same body, which was a natural body, even ye shall receive your bodies, and your glory shall be that glory by which your bodies are quickened. Ye who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness; and they who are quickened by a portion of the terrestrial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness; and also they who are quickened by a portion of the telestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness; and they who remain shall also be quickened; nevertheless, they shall return again to their own place, to enjoy that which they are willing to receive, because they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received.

\*\*\*\*\*

He who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom can not abide a celestial glory.

The laws by which we live determine the level on which we live. If we live by the law of tooth and fang and claw, we will soon discover that we live in a jungle environment where every other tooth and fang and claw is arrayed against us. Fifty years ago most of our nation lived without electric lights, telephones, automobiles, airplanes, air conditioning, radio and television. The laws governing all those modern conveniences were there all the time, waiting to be discovered and obeyed. But because men did not obey those laws, they had to live in a lesser kingdom, without the benefits which might have come to them through such obedience. Who can tell what other laws are waiting to be discovered, which would raise our standards of living still higher if we would only obey them and live by them?

There are many laws on the practical or natural or physical level. There are also many laws on the spiritual level. The laws we obey determine the level on which we live, or the kingdom in which we live. We can live on an animal level, dumbly content with eating, drinking, reproducing, sleeping, and dying -- making the purely physical the whole end and aim of our existence. Or we can live on an intellectual level, where we seek knowledge, wisdom, information, the things of

the mind, where we live in a world of books and philosophers. Or we can live on a still higher level -- a spiritual level -- where food and drink and good books and all other physical and mental things become a means -- not the end -- the means of implementing a higher spiritual life through obedience to a higher law.

We may live in the kingdom of the flesh, where the law of "eat, drink, and be merry," prevails, where it is the rule to give the body anything it wants without any curbing or control from mind or spirit, where unbridled license soon gives way to surfeiting. If we live by the laws governing the animal kingdom, we live like an animal. But if we live according to the laws of the higher spiritual kingdom, we live in the kingdom of the spirit, and we enjoy the fruits of the Spirit -- love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. "They that are Christ's, (that is, who live by the laws of his kingdom) have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

We choose the kingdom in which we shall live, and in which we shall find our enjoyment, when we choose the laws which we are willing to obey. He who cannot or will not abide by and live by the

laws of the town or municipality in which he lives, is very likely to find himself living awhile in the city jail, under a much stricter law than the one he chose to break. He who cannot live by the laws of the state in which he lives must sooner or later find himself in the state penitentiary, expelled from the kingdom whose laws he would not obey. And he who cannot live according to the laws of his nation sooner or later finds himself an inmate of one of the federal prisons, where he must live under a stricter law. If he is not willing to abide by the rules and laws of the federal prison, sooner or later he goes to Alcatraz, where there are still sterner laws adapted to his nature and his needs.

There is no kingdom where there is no law. No man can escape law by breaking it. He merely forces himself into another kingdom, a lower kingdom, where there is still law, but where the law is simpler, sterner, more exacting, and the punishments more severe for failure to obey. God is not mocked. His laws are not broken or defied. The man who tries to break them is broken by them, and by his own actions automatically places himself in a lesser kingdom -- not a kingdom where he escapes law, but a kingdom where the law is adapted to his nature and his rebellion.

Your choice is therefore not whether you will live under law or not, but whether you will live by a higher law, as a free citizen of God's kingdom, glorious in your freedom, in righteousness, in mercy, in truth, in justice, or whether you want to live in a lesser jail or penitentiary type kingdom, or even in an Alcatraz type of kingdom. The law of God extends to all kingdoms. There is no space in which there is no kingdom. There is no place you can go where there is not some law which must be obeyed.

Most of the tragedies of life -- individually and nationally -- have resulted from a failure or refusal to live by the higher law of a higher kingdom. Israel was offered the opportunity to live as a nation under God, a nation which would demonstrate to the rest of the world the benefits and joys and satisfactions of living by the perfect law of God. They could not abide by that type of law, and therefore they wandered for forty years in the wilderness under the Mosaic law -- a law of carnal commandments and ordinances and stiff penalties for disobedience. They found difficulty even in living by the law of Moses. Time and time again in Old Testament history they departed from that inferior law. Whenever they did, when their departure and rebel-

lion and disobedience became complete and irrevocable, they lost their own kingdom and were conquered by and subjected to some lesser kingdom. After they had rejected Christ and his kingdom, they were scattered and their kingdom completely destroyed by the Roman Conquest of 70 A.D. History teaches the obvious: if you cannot live by the laws of a higher kingdom, you must live by the laws of a lower. You may have whichever kingdom you choose.

What sort of kingdom do you expect to enjoy during eternity? Many people have the erroneous idea that they can live on any level they please in this life, and that when they die God will generously pardon all their sins and take them to heaven a completely changed and different personality which then can enjoy all the higher spiritual things that were ignored or even despised in this life. Death does not change personality. Neither does resurrection. Death and the resurrection change only the physical body, making mortal, and corruptible incorruptible. The personality, the spirit, remains the same. The laws by which we have lived in this life will determine the kingdom and the degree of glory in which we will live through eternity. We set and fix our own limits in this life by our obedience or disobedience to law. We determine our capacity for enjoyment. We choose our kingdom. We may have whatever kingdom we have the capacity to use and enjoy -- a kingdom determined by the laws we have chosen to obey.

Why should we expect a higher kingdom in the future life, if we have not been able to abide by the laws of that kingdom (at least in part) in this life? Would a man who had never learned to enjoy reading anything better than pulp magazines and comic books be happy in a magnificent library, such as the Library of Congress, or the Vatican Library? No! He would be bored, restless, unhappy, completely lost. Would a man who had never learned to enjoy anything better than hill billy music be happy in a place where he could choose from the music of Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, and all the great masters, played by matchless symphony orchestras? No! such a place would be a hell for him.

"He who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom can not abide a celestial glory." You are choosing your future glory in the eternal world every time you choose the level of law you will obey in this life. The kingdom which you will inherit eternally is the kingdom by whose laws you are living today. In the day of judgment, "he who is not sanctified through the law OF Christ, must inherit another kingdom."