

The Kingdom of God, pt.1  
The King & His Kingdom

- I. The Primary Purpose of Jesus' Ministry
  - a. Why did Jesus come to earth? Jesus came to earth to...
    - i. The most common response is to die for our sins.
    - ii. True but not the whole; it's one part of the whole
    - iii. **Jesus came to establish the Kingdom Of God on earth; to bring the reign of God in heaven to earth!**
  - b. The Foundation
    - i. The death, burial & resurrection of Christ are foundational but they aren't the whole of Jesus' mission on earth.
    - ii. When you're building a house, the foundation is critical, but it isn't the house. It's the part on which the whole rest.
    - iii. Jesus' death, burial & resurrection are the foundational stones on which the Kingdom of God is built. The KOG would have been a fleeting attempt had the foundation not been laid. The KOG rests upon these foundation stones.
- II. Scriptures about the primacy of the KOG
  - a. Matt.4.17, 23 – beginning of His ministry; the
  - b. Matt.6.9f. – The Lord's Prayer
  - c. Matt.6.33 – Seek first the kingdom
  - d. Lk.4.42f.– why he was sent
  - e. Acts 1.1–3 – 40 days after the resurrection
  - f. Acts 28.30f – the end of Paul's life
- III. A Definition of the Kingdom of God
  - a. Matt.6.9f – the basis for the definition. It's the will of God which is done perfectly in Heaven, being done perfectly on earth in every heart & every situation.
  - b. **The definition – The Kingdom of God is the reign of Jesus in every area of life; it's when King Jesus gets His way in every**

**sphere of life** (from the small choices in your heart to the nation altering decisions made at the UN).

- i. Some would call this bondage, but it's actually freedom. Bondage is when we are consistently getting our way rather than letting God have his way.
  - 1. Consider your own life and constantly demanding to have things your way.
  - 2. Look at people who have constantly demanded their way & the mess they've made of themselves.
    - a. Would driving be better with or w/o traffic lights?
    - b. The KOG has restrictions, but these restriction actually liberate not shackle.
    - c. Also, as we catch glimpses of heaven in Scripture, you see people who are full of joy and they're doing the will of God. Delores Key is having a ball.
    - d. Example of aunt before & after she relinquished control.
- ii. Freedom comes in submitting to the KOG. God has a will every decision of life and when His will is followed people, families, communities, businesses, schools, nations, etc prosper.

#### IV. What the Kingdom of God Isn't

- a. The Church - Big C or little c. The church is a part of the Kingdom, but the KOG isn't limited to the Church. The KOG existed before the inception of the church. A notable example is in Dan.4 & Neb's dream and ensuing fulfillment.
  - i. Dan.4.17; 25; 34f. - Neb's dream; Daniel's interpr; Neb's confession
  - ii. Exodus - The release of the Jews from Egyptian bondage through great hardship.

- iii. In both of the above cases, it didn't have to happen this way, but both Pharoah & Neb resisted God's will.
- iv. The Kingdom finds its highest fulfillment when the Church or a church is in center of God's will. God grants the Church grace, power, resources, favor, etc. There will be contention but there will be blessing
  - 1. The ROH and getting it established is huge in the heart of God. You have two key attributes of God's will flowing together – addressing the needs of people in crises & unity of the body of Christ. These are two things that God says He will bless, Is.58 & Ps.133.
  - 2. There will be contention, but there will be blessing just as there was with both the ministry of Jesus & the early church.

b. The Kingdom of God isn't Heaven

- i. Sometimes due to the confusion with the designation of KOH and KOG. Matthew uses KOH whereas other gospels say KOG. It's one and the same.
- ii. Heaven is the perfect example of the fulfillment of our definition. In Heaven, God's will is perfectly done.
- iii. He is currently bringing His will being done in Heaven to earth. Whenever you see His will expressed that is a sign of the KOG.
  - 1. Breaking Christian News stories
  - 2. Growing in knowledge, being a good employee, and taking care of your body are all expressions of the KOG. Those are expressions of the reign of Jesus in every part of life.

c. It isn't limited to our personal walk with God.

- i. The kingdom is within – Luke 17.21 – but it influences every part of life.
- ii. It involves the restoration of ecological systems to the election of presidents. The KOG involves how you do

your retirement planning to combat in Iraq. God has a will in every area of life. Therefore, we must seek first the KOG.

iii. It isn't limited to the renewal of your mind or personal decision making though that's how we see it most easily.

V. The Kingdoms Impact On Us

a. It makes our life relevant

i. "Life can be so daily." Boredom settles in that gives way to discontentedness that gives way to apathy and negativity or the constant need for activity and a new rush.

ii. We think by changing our environment, friends, family, routine or standard of living it will answer this discontentment in our spirit. It won't. You'll simply have different friends/environment/routine,/job/standard of living and completely discontented.

1. AFI – Citizen Kane still the #1 movie in America.  
A man who had everything but had nothing.

iii. In the church, we think relevance is synonymous with having new programs or catchy advertisement or new worship styles/small group/ministry challenges/practical sermons.

iv. **The key to relevance is letting the King have his way in your life and in our church.** The early church didn't have a problem being relevant. If a community of believers will demonstrate unconditional love to each other, stay true to the Word, help those in need, reach out to the hurting, heal the sick, cast out demons, deliver the oppressed and reach out to the lost, they will always remain relevant.

v. Today, relevance has been reduced to having messages like "10 Steps to Being a good parent" or "extreme youth experiences" or "how to live in prosperity." Those

things may be helpful, but relevance isn't determined by style or substance.

vi. You will always be relevant if you let the King have his way.

1. The reason we are so persistently seeking the supernatural power of God is so the KOG will be fully known and lives will be completely changed.

2. Repentance is key. Constantly check to see if mind is in sync with God's will.

b. God advances His Kingdom through us.

i. Do you enjoy risk, adventure, hazards? Do you want to see good defeat evil? Do you want to see: lives changed radically, problems resolved miraculously, bodies healed instantly...then let the King has his way in your life...join Him in His activity around you.

ii. Quit looking at yourself and look where God is working around you and join Him in His activity.

iii. God has chosen to extend His Kingdom through us. He hasn't called you into retirement but into His service.

1. FF Bosworth – At 75, God used him the next 5 years as much as the previous 50.

2. Cecil Williams is being used mightily; Betty Danford as a volunteer at the hospital; you might not be able to get out of your home, but you can get on your knees and make a difference in the life of your family and the world not through some weak, insipid prayer, but through life changing Kingdom empowered praying!

iv. If you find yourself bored with God or the church, the problem isn't there but in your heart, where Christ isn't actively reigning as King.

1. I enjoy my work & life so much & it isn't b/c I'm in full time Christian service. Everyone is in full

time Christian service. I just happen to do mine at 200 Willow Drive. Where do you do yours?

2. Where Jesus is King there is always an adventure! It might be the adventure of a personal struggle or family difficulty. It might be the adventure of a physical difficulty or work place challenge. You bow your heart, swear your allegiance to the King and begin following his orders and all the while repenting/changing your mind.
3. I just don't see the disciples & early believers bored or pre-occupied with temporal things. This small band of believers changed the course of humanity not through sheer determination and a strong work ethic, but through letting the King have his way in their hearts
  - a. The Fields leaving for KC. They are following the King as He leads them to KC.

VI. Entering the Kingdom

- a. John 3.3 - You enter the KOG when you are born again.
- b. Mark 1.15 - You advance in the KOG by repenting. You must constantly allow your mind to be changed or renewed. This is the biggest challenge for existing Christians.
- c. Matt.18.1-3 - You grow in the KOG by becoming like a child in humility.
  - i. You can't pretend to know it all. You must continue to grow & expand in your knowledge.
  - ii. E. Stanley Jones story on p.82

Invitation