

Hidden Kingdom Part 2 - "Follow the Way" (1-31-21)

Introduction: Review last week - Jesus is the Master, will we be his disciples (apprenticeship)?

1) Made for the Kingdom

Genesis 1:26-28 (ESV)

(26) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- Made to be like Him
- Made with a Purpose: Intentional plan, clearly communicated - care for and rule all living things
- This was His Blessing to us

Genesis 2:7-8 (ESV)

(7) then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (8) And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Note: We were blessed, empowered, and placed in a beautiful garden - this is God's heart and intent for us!

How we rule . . .

Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV)

(15) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (16) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, (17) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Note: Steward God's gift, enjoy His provision, obey His rule (our rule under His!)

And do all of this in healthy relationship with Him - His presence was known, personal, & familiar . . .

Genesis 3:8 (ESV)

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day . . .

It all fell apart . . .

Genesis 3:8 (ESV)

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife **hid themselves** from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

But, His plan hasn't changed . . . (Rev 22 - describes a beautiful, garden city - the place of healing)

Revelation 22:3-5 (ESV)

(3) No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. (4) They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (5) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and **they will reign forever and ever.**

2) Jesus' life is the Way

John 5:19 (ESV)

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

Note: Jesus came and lived the life we were meant to - in union with and submission to the Father

John 8:28-29 (ESV)

(28) So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. (29) And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

- Jesus death further solidified this way of Life!
- Even in death God was with him, even in death he lived life to the full.
- This way of life cannot be stopped by death - it continues on through eternity!

We failed to live the good life in a perfect world, so Jesus lived the perfect life in a bad world in order to show us the way home.

This is the beauty and power of God's Kingdom - we can participate in this life no matter the circumstances around us!

John 14:6-7 (ESV)

(6) Jesus said to him, "**I am the way**, and **the truth**, and **the life**. No one comes to the Father except through me. (7) If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

- If you have seen me, you have seen the Father (the Hidden Revealed)
- If you know me, you know the Father (the Hidden made known)
- Bold claim - not just I'm showing you the way, I am the Way (you live this life through me!)

3) The Way back Home

Jesus' bold claim is also an open invitation . . .

"Follow Me" - Jesus (over and over again)

- Blue collar - Fishermen
- White collar - Tax collector
- The Rich
- The Poor
- The Mourning
- The Outcasts
- The Deniers

How do we get into the Hidden Kingdom?

Realize we have been hiding from it, and go after it!**a) Enter the Kingdom Forcefully** (intentionally)**Matthew 11:12 (ESV)**

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

Luke 16:16 (ESV)

The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.

b) Enter the Kingdom Sacrificially (count the cost)**Matthew 16:24-26 (ESV)**

(24) Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (25) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (26) For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Conclusion: We were made to live in co-operation with the Kingdom of God. Jesus is our way back home. Will we count the cost and follow him?