

Kingdom come: Salt & Light

Matt 5:13-16; Matt 6:9-10; Acts 4:32-36

Intro

- Recap of previous Sundays:
 - Ps Steve introduced our theme - Kingdom Come
 - Building on last years theme of Jesus People
 - The Kingdom of God is the realm over which God reigns as supreme and Jesus Christ is King. It's the manifestation of the values and will of God
 - We are asked to pray for His Kingdom to come.
 - Susie spoke on Kingdom Repentance.
 - Turning away from idols and distractions and turning towards Jesus
 - Realigning ourselves with Kingdom values

The Gospel of the Kingdom

- We have good news to share!
- Gospel of the Kingdom!
- Good news of the story of God
- King who has a Kingdom
- Kings name is Jesus
- He came down to earth to manifest His Kingdom on earth
- His words showed us the way to live as part of this Kingdom, that the Kingdom is a deeply relational Kingdom
 - It's knowing the King, becoming like the King and making the King known to others
- His works demonstrated the nature of the Kingdom
 - Kindness and compassion of the Father
 - Gentleness and meekness of the son
 - Manifestation and indwelling of the Spirit
- His wonders demonstrated the power and authority of the Kingdom
 - The Kingdom of God has come in power but that power is attained by becoming like the King
 - That His Kingdom doesn't manifest in power by being given position, instead laying your live down, loving the unlovable touching the untouchable.
- The King made a way for us to know the Father, have relationship with the Father through the son by laying down His life, dying on a cross, rising from the grave, ascending to Heaven and sending Holy Spirit.
- This is good news!
- The Kings desire is that everyone would know His Father
- Matthew 5:16 NLT
- [16] In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.
- This is the story we are caught up into

Salt & Light

- The Kings commission was for us to make disciples of all nations
- This is the part of the story that we are involved in
- We are to help write the next chapter of the story by making disciples of all nations
- Empowered by the Spirit
- So everyone would praise our Heavenly Father.
- We are now ambassadors of that Kingdom which was founded and established by King Jesus
- We are used by the King to bring His Kingdom on earth

Matthew 5:13-16 NLT

[13] "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. [14] "You are the light of the world-like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. [15] No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. [16] In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

- Cooking story...
- We are called to go and season the world to go and take the Kingdom and the Kingdoms values.
- Through seasoning the world we see God's Kingdom coming earth
- Early Church saw the Kingdom of God break out wherever they went:
 - Crowds of Pentecost or the Courts of the temple just like the apostles in Acts 5
 - Waiting on tables or Sorcerers homes Like Philip in Acts 6
 - Synagogues across Eastern Europe or in Houses and courts of the rich and aristocracy like Peter in Acts 10
 - In prisons (while in prison) or Shipwrecked on an Island or on the Shipwreck itself like Paul in Acts 27&28
- Wherever the early Church were the Kingdom of God manifested wherever they went.

Acts 2:42-47 NLT

[42] All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. [43] A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. [44] And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. [45] They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. [46] They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity- [47] all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32-35 NLT

[32] All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. [33] The apostles testified

powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. [34] There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them [35] and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

- Through Generosity (Acts 4v32)
 - One of the Kingdom values they lived by was the centrality of Christ
 - Knowing nothing is their own. (v32)
 - Give examples - Barnabas
 - Acts 4:36-37 NLT
 - [36] For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. [37] He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.
 - Through generosity the Apostles seasoned the world and saw God's Kingdom Come
- Powerful testimony of Jesus (Acts 4v33) followed by signs and wonders (Acts 14:3)
 - Acts 2:43 NLT [43] A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.
 - Acts 17:2-4 NLT (Paul in Thessalonica) [2] As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. [3] He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." [4] Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women.
 - Acts 19:9-12 NLT [9] But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. [10] This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord. [11] God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. [12] When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.
 - By powerfully testifying to Jesus the Apostles seasoned the world and saw God's Kingdom Come
- Caring for the poor (Acts 4v34)
 - Acts 6 - widows and poor being overlooked in the distribution of the food
 - Made it a priority to get this right
 - When they did this their numbers grew rapidly
 - Acts 6:8 NLT
 - [8] Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.
 - Acts 9:36 NLT

- [36] There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor.
- By caring for the poor, the Apostles seasoned the world and saw God's Kingdom Come
- Through Worship (Acts 2v46)
 - Acts 2:46 NLT [46] They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity-
 - Worship seasons the World
 - 2 Chronicles 20 - sends out the worship team first
 - It's not just about singing worship songs although that is important
 - Our lifestyle should be a lifestyle that worships the King
 - By worshipping the King, the Apostles seasoned the world and saw God's Kingdom Come

Application

How do we season the world and see God's Kingdom Come

We want to see this happen in our day and age

We want to see this happen in our lifetime!

- Through Generosity
 - The well and Generosity.
 - How can you season your world by being generous in your streets and communities?
 - How can you as a small group of people, a missional community or Home Church come together to meet a need in your community and in doing so seasoning the world?
- Powerful testimony of Jesus
 - We recently hear of a team of 3 people that went out with the mission of planting Churches and as of Nov 2020 they have now seen 70,000 churches planted and ~500,000 baptized in the past 8 years.
 - About 25 years ago, a traditional Indian pastor named Victor John left his church of 500 people to begin applying movement principles. He lived in a part of the world known as the "graveyard of modern missions" because of how resistant these people had been to missionary efforts. Victor John found a new way (really a very old way) of making disciples. In the first 4 years of applying these principles, they saw very little fruit and Victor John went through times of discouragement and doubt. In year 5, they saw their first church planted. In the 20 years since then, they have baptised over 10 million people and seen hundreds of thousands of churches planted. The movement is so large that they have to send in research teams to try to measure the impact
 - When we powerfully testify to Jesus, through larger settings and in small groups we season the world and see His Kingdom Come.
 - Prayer walking & talking to people

- Story of going with Julius
- How can you season the world by powerfully testifying to Jesus in your streets and communities?
- How can you as a small group of people, a missional community or Home Church come together to powerfully testify to Jesus in your community and in doing so seasoning the world?

- Caring for the poor (v34)
 - Jesus came for the least the last and the lost.
 - We see today of people who carried the mantle like William & Catherine Booth and the Salvation Army.
 - One of the primary ways the Church seasoned the world during the pandemic was through caring for those in need, through food banks, phone calls, and waving through windows.
 - Christmas at All Nations community projects:
 - Christmas lunch project - hosted them and helped to feed around 1000 people over Christmas
 - Prison ministry - 2100 gifts to inmates at Oakward prison, attended and shared the good news at 5 Christmas Day Services
 - Navi and WM team delivered 100 toys to families across the WM area and went into Asda and different areas of community carol singing.
 - How can you season the world by caring for the poor in your streets and communities?
 - How can you as a small group of people, a missional community or Home Church come together to serve the poor in your community and in doing so seasoning the world?

- Worship
 - Story of Dudley and worshipping in an empty place
 - How can you season the world through worship in your streets and communities?
 - How can you as a small group of people, a missional community or Home Church come together to worship the Lord in your community and in doing so seasoning the world?