
Kingdom Over Comfort

The Story Genesis 24

Sermon Notes

God is in control, and we play a part.

1. God is sovereignly orchestrating redemptive history.
2. Humans have a role to play in redemptive history.
3. Are you willing to choose Kingdom over comfort?

My Story

1. Chris started by asking: How does a redemptive plan move forward? After hearing this message, how would you answer this question?
2. God is in control, and we play a part. How do you see God at work in Abraham's life? Eliezer's life? Laban and Bethuel's lives? Rebekah's life?
3. How do you couple God being in control and us playing our part?
4. Where have you been living lately, as it refers to comfort?
5. Do you tend to seek to live in comfort or the sometimes uncomfortable Kingdom?

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6. Have you witnessed anyone you think of as committed to living by God's Kingdom even when it has been uncomfortable?
7. Eliezer saw God answer his prayers in a big way. However, not all of our prayers get answered in such a way. How do you usually react when God tells you "no" or "not yet"?
8. Are you willing to choose Kingdom over comfort?

Digging Deeper

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Genesis 24.

As Chris pointed out, we see a keyword repeated in Genesis 24. Look at verses 12, 14, 27, and 49 and notice the repeated word, translated into English as "kindness," and in Hebrew is the word "hesed," which means Loyal Love or Loyalty to the Covenant.

1. Looking back over your life, can you see God's hand or movement in your life? How can you then see His 'hesed,' His loving kindness, through this?
2. When you see the mess of our world, how do you couple this reality and the truth that God is over all in a way that demonstrates His redemptive plan?

Read Esther 4.

Queen Esther was orphaned as a child and raised by her cousin Mordecai. When she came of age, she was among the young women the powerful King Xerxes considered to be his new queen after his former queen angered him. Mordecai ordered Esther not to reveal her nationality to Xerxes.

1. Esther had a part to play in God's plan, but fear was present. Have you felt fear when called by God? Did you still step into the calling? How did you overcome that fear?

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2. God takes care of delivering His people, but He doesn't always show us how until the right time. How did He use all of Esther's story in His plan of redemption?

Read John 4:1-42 (maybe set aside 15-20 mins one morning or evening this week to do this) and consider this woman's interaction with Jesus.

In the culture, the fact that she showed up at the well at the time she did was to not draw attention to herself, to avoid interacting with others as much as possible because of her history.

1. What does she point out immediately that is wrong with Jesus talking to her?
2. What does Jesus reveal He knows about her life?
3. Are these things she would have been proud of, or perhaps not so much? Regardless of these facts about her history, what does Jesus entrust to her?
4. Do you see how He invites her into what He is doing?
5. What does the woman then do with this?
6. Would it have been more likely for it to be comfortable or uncomfortable for her to go to town and share with the public?
7. How does this show Jesus offering to redeem her past? How is Jesus inviting her into His redemptive plan for the world, for His Story?
8. What if Jesus asks you to do something similar?

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Bringing It Home

1. God is in control, and we get to play a part. What part is God calling you to? Have you checked that calling against the Holy Spirit and the Bible and sought Godly counsel?
2. Are you willing to choose Kingdom over comfort? What does choosing Kingdom mean to you?
3. What areas of your life are you comfortable with? What would be the hardest thing to give up if God asked?
4. What areas of your life are you not obedient in?
5. Where have you sacrificed for the Kingdom and seen God's provision?
6. What have you persevered through and seen God's faithfulness?
7. When you think of being part of a history that God redeems, no matter what your history may look like, how does this impact your perspective on the value of your life? What about the value of the lives of others? How would you offer this to someone else who's never considered this before?
8. When you ask God for wisdom or help, if He offers it in a way you weren't expecting, do you think you will be obedient to His way? What if what He offers is uncomfortable? Will you choose to follow His direction and be uncomfortable? Why or why not?
9. Who do you have in your life who can pray with you about things and then offer you support and accountability to follow God when He offers an answer?