

Developing a Culture of the Kingdom

The goal of the new Wednesday series, “Divine Healing for Today” is to establish a stronger **culture of faith for healing** at King’sGate this year. A culture of healing faith and prayer are not the only cultural elements whose impact needs to be strengthened in 2026. Today I’ll be sharing about “Developing a Culture of the Kingdom.”

Webster’s Dictionary defines “**culture**” as, “The set of **shared attitudes, values, goals and practices** that characterizes an institution or organization.” Last week we began with Acts 2 to review the “Culture of the Vital Early Church” and how it grew and prospered. This morning let’s dive into the major theme of our Lord’s teaching and how it should impact us today. I’m talking about the Kingdom of God. Let’s begin with Matthew 3.

Matt. 3:1-2 TPT *“It was at this time that John the Baptizer began to preach in the desert of Judah. His message was this: **“Heaven’s kingdom is about to appear** – so you’d better keep turning away from evil and turn back to God (NKJV **“repent”**)!”* John was from a priestly family whose father was Zechariah & mother was Elizabeth. He might have been a member of the Qumran community of the Essenes. He was Jesus’ forerunner.

SFLB KD “To what does “the kingdom” refer? It refers to God’ sovereign rule in the universe – He is the King of the heavens. But more specifically, in Matt. 3:1-2, it refers to entry of God’s long-anticipated Anointed One – the prophesied Messiah, the promised Son of David who would not only be the Savior, Deliverer, and King of Israel, but of all mankind. Declaring

the kingdom “at hand,” that is “drawing near,” John was announcing that the rule of God’s King was about to overthrow the power and rule of all evil – both human & hellish [Iran bombing 2/28]. The kingdom was near because the King was here. And His presence, introducing the power of “the kingdom of God,” meant a new world of potential hope to mankind.”

Matt. 4:12-17 TPT *“When Jesus heard that John the Baptizer had been thrown into prison, **He went back into Galilee.** 13. Jesus moved from Nazareth to make His home in Capernaum, which is by Lake Galilee in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali. 14. He did this to make the prophecy of Isaiah come true: 15. “Listen, you who live in the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, along the road to the sea and on the other side of the Jordan, and Galilee – the land of the Gentiles! 16. You who spend your days shrouded in darkness can now say, “We have seen a brilliant Light.” And those who live in the dark shadow land of death can now say, “The Dawning Light arises on us.”*

TPT note: “Light is a common name for the Messiah in rabbinical literature. It speaks of both Christ and the revelatory teaching He brings. The Aramaic word for Galilee (Galeela) means “revelation of God.” Jesus was raised and ministered in the land of the “revelation of God.””

V. 17 *“From that time on Jesus began to proclaim His message with these words: “Keep turning away from your sins and come back to God (or “**repent**”), for heaven’s kingdom realm is now **accessible*** (or “close enough to touch”, “at hand”).” ***NKJV note:** “The verb “**is at hand**” means “has come,” “has arrived,” “is here,” and suggests the inauguration of the reign of God, which still awaits its consummation.”*

The reign of God has begun! As Jesus fulfilled the Word of God, we are to do similarly by being obedient to what the Lord has said to us. What are we doing to fulfill the Word of God? We who have sat in darkness before coming to Christ

Jesus, we have now seen “*a brilliant Light*”. We’ve had a wonderful revelation of Who the Savior of the world is, and we’ll never be the same! Are we walking in the power of this life-transforming Light? Are our lives seriously changed through repentance from dead works to serve the Living God?

There is a similar call on our lives as is found in **Matt. 4:18-20**

TPT: “*As He was walking by the shore of Galilee, Jesus noticed two fishermen who were brothers. One was nicknamed Keefa (Aramaic, meaning “the rock” or “pebble”) later called Peter), and the other was Andrew, his brother. Watching as they were casting their nets into the water, 19. Jesus called out to them and said, “Come and follow Me, and I will transform you into men who catch people for God (or “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”).*” As Dr. Tod shared last Sunday, we are all called with a redemptive purpose to be our brother’s keeper, to care for one another, especially those who are in the body of Christ. **Gal. 6:10** says that we of the Kingdom are to take advantage of opportunities that arise to help one another rather than wait for circumstances to be ideal: **TPT** “*And don’t allow yourselves to be weary in planting good seeds, for the season of reaping the wonderful harvest you’ve planted is coming! 10. Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others*, especially to our brothers and sisters in the family of faith!*” ***TPT note:** “The Greek text implies giving finances.” My wife must understand Greek, for she gives & gives!

Jesus spoke in parables to help spiritually hungry people understand the kingdom of God.

Parable of the Growing Seed

Mark 4:26-4:32 TPT “*Jesus also told them this parable: “God’s kingdom realm is like someone spreading seed on the ground. 27. He goes to bed and gets up, day after day, and the seed sprout and grows tall, though he knows not how. 28. All by*

itself it sprouts, and the soil produces a crop; first the green stem, then the head on the stalk, and then the fully developed grain in the head. 29. Then, when the grain is ripe, he immediately puts the sickle to the grain, because harvest time has come.”

Parable of the Tiny Mustard Seed Mk. 4:30 TPT *“And He told them this parable: “How can I describe God’s kingdom realm? Let Me illustrate it with this parable. 31. It is like the mustard seed, the tiniest of all the seeds, 32. Yet when it springs up and grows, it becomes the largest plant in the garden, with so many large spreading branches, even birds can nest in its shade.”*

The mustard seed is a type of the Kingdom of Heaven. It begins exceedingly small - like a tiny seed – but it eventually grows into the largest of the herb trees! **TPT note:** “This is an allegorical way of describing the growth of God’s kingdom realm. It may appear in the beginning as small and insignificant, yet it will grow until it becomes the greatest kingdom of all. These parables teach us that God’s kingdom is growing on the earth [through stages of maturity until the harvest, including in our lives] and is not diminishing.”

God’s work often has small beginnings, insignificant, unnoticed, yet it prospers and flourishes, bringing blessing and refuge to all. **This includes your life & mine!** So don’t be discouraged from stepping out in faith & sowing seeds of good works (i.e. \$1000 for food packs for Pakistani Christian widows from KG).

Next week: The Lord’s Prayer - “Our

Father...”*. SFLB note on Deut. 1:6 NKJV: “The Lord **our God spoke to us....**” Note: “Our God” emphasizes the close covenant relationship between God & Israel.” **Matt. 6:9-10*

NKJV *“In this manner therefore pray:*

“Our Father* in heaven, hallowed by Your name. **10.** Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” **“Our*

Father in heaven” reflects the close covenant relationship that we have with the Lord our God through Christ Jesus!