

The background is a dark, atmospheric landscape. On the right, a large, multi-story stone castle with a prominent spire sits atop a rocky cliff. In the center, a small figure of a person stands on a bridge or walkway that spans across a chasm. The sky is filled with a large flock of birds in flight, moving from the left towards the center. The overall color palette is dark with some lighter, hazy areas, creating a sense of mystery and grandeur.

KINGDOM

OVER

EMPIRE

A SERMON SERIES ON FOLLOWING JESUS IN A WORLD OF ISMS

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! 18 Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

Reconciliation

The restoring of relationships, primarily between God and humanity, and secondary between people, changing enmity into peace and fellowship through forgiveness, with the ultimate source being God's work through Jesus Christ.

JOHN 17:14-16

14 I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

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Ambassador

An official representative.

A diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign and appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment as the resident representative abroad

The background of the entire image is a sunset sky with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. In the foreground, the silhouettes of a group of people are visible, standing in a circle and holding hands, suggesting a community or church gathering. The text is overlaid on this scene.

THE KINGDOM RECONCILES

A SERMON SERIES ON FOLLOWING JESUS IN A WORLD OF ISMS
WEEK 2

**The body can not be whole
while some parts of it are in
pain**

JOHN 4:7-9

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. “Give me a drink,” Jesus said to her, 8 because his disciples had gone into town to buy food. 9 “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

LUKE 10: 25-37

25 Then an expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 “What is written in the law?” he asked him. “How do you read it?” 27 He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.

LUKE 10: 25-37

28 “You’ve answered correctly,” he told him. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

LUKE 10: 25-37

30 Jesus took up the question and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

LUKE 10: 25-37

32 In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. 34 He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

LUKE 10: 25-37

35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.'

36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

LUKE 10: 25-37

**37 “The one who showed mercy to him,” he
said.**

Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”

LUKE 14:16-21

16 He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written:

LUKE 14:16-21

**18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.**

He has sent me

**to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free the oppressed,**

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

LUKE 14:16-21

20 He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled.”

REVELATION 7:9-10

9 After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands.

REVELATION 7:9-10

**10 And they cried out in a loud voice:
Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!**