

Passion, Service and Sacrifice

Part 2

July 22, 2018

I **SLIDE** Kingdom of God

A) Internal and External

- 1) While the priority of the Kingdom is its internal reality, Scripture teaches that the Kingdom influences everything.
- 2) For example, when a person is born again (regenerated), this will affect everything in his life: his family, his marriage, his attitude on the job, how he votes, etc.
- 3) The authority of the Kingdom of God is over all and touches all.
- 4) The spiritual reality of the Kingdom in the heart of the believer releases results in character and behavior which becomes visibly observable.
- 5) The church is not the kingdom
- 6) Instead, the church is to model Kingdom life to society
- 7) The Kingdom creates the church, works through the church, and is proclaimed in the world by the church.
- 8) There can be no Kingdom without a church - those who have acknowledged God's rule--and there can be no church without God's Kingdom; but they remain two distinguishable concepts: the rule of God and the fellowship of men.

B) **SLIDE** Our responsibility

- 1) **Matthew 28:17-20 (NIV)** ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** ¹⁹ **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **and teaching them to obey everything I have**

commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- 2) **SLIDE** All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus
 - 3) He rules the Kingdom of God, and His Kingdom encompasses ALL of heaven AND all of creation.
 - 4) His kingdom is over all aspects of life.
 - 5) Our King has given us authority to GO, MAKE, BAPTIZE, and TEACH
 - 6) These are all action verbs - commands
 - 7) The kingdom will have no end, so Jesus will be with us in every situation forever
- C) Passion, Service, Sacrifice
- 1) So, our passion for our King leads us to go and serve, which results in our being living sacrifices
 - 2) The church cannot function without all of us serving
 - 3) Bill Williams.
 - 4) Fellowship Cook-out and movie

II **SLIDE** Kingdom is like....

A) Parables

- 1) **SLIDE Matthew 13:24 (NIV)** ²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.
- 2) **SLIDE Matthew 13:31 (NIV)** ³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.
- 3) **SLIDE Matthew 13:33 (NIV)** ³³ He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

- 4) **SLIDE Matthew 13:44 (NIV)** ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.
- 5) **SLIDE Matthew 13:45 (NIV)** ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls
- 6) **SLIDE Matthew 13:47 (NIV)** ⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.
- 7) **SLIDE Matthew 25:1 (NIV)** ¹ "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
- 8) **SLIDE Mark 4:26 (NIV)** ²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

B) Do you notice a pattern in these descriptions?

- 1) First, they all require us to go and do something: sow seed, plant, work in the yeast, seek the treasure, look for God, go fishing, keep lamps burning, scatter seed everywhere.
- 2) Second, these commands apply to all of us
- 3) Third, when we do, we will be blessed and encouraged.
- 4) Fourth, when we do, we will see the kingdom touch lives in ways the world cannot
- 5) Only in very recent years have the Masai of Kenya been evangelized. Among them is a man named Kimiti Ole Rerente. Though he has never been to school, he has memorized great portions of Scripture. He preaches in villages all around him. He teaches children. He has won his entire family to Christ. He assists the missionaries who serve among his people. He has found the good news of Christ too good to keep. One thing more must be said about him. He is blind!

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C) **SLIDE Mark 10:29-30 (NIV)** ²⁹ "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life."

- 1) Everyone who is motivated by a passion for Jesus and His gospel and goes into the world to serve will receive a reward now and in the age to come.
- 2) If we leave our home, our family, our hobbies, we will receive many homes (Am I not welcome in your homes?); mothers (When I am not feeling well, I have many who mother me and look after me; brothers (Gary, Don, Jack, Brian, Johnny Joe, etc.); children (I have been blessed to watch several grow); fields (I have no garden, but I receive squash from Robert and Gina, eggs from Gina Newberry, tomatoes from Larry)
- 3) One word about "leave."
- 4) "Leave" does not mean that we have to leave our families, mothers, brothers, fields, etc. for good
- 5) It means that we "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
- 6) Notice: we also receive one more thing: persecutions
- 7) The world persecuted Jesus; it will persecute us
- 8) This is not a maybe; it is a fact
- 9) Passion, service, and sacrifice go together
- 10) Our reward: well done good and faithful servant

D) Not programs

- 1) People, not programs
- 2) Opportunities, like Bill (He thanked us over and over again.)
- 3) Worship in Pink
- 4) Movie night for the community (I Can Only Imagine)
 - a) We are the servants in this house of God
 - b) We should be here to welcome visitors

- c) We are to interact with them instead of with each other
 - 5) Work day at church - landscaping
 - 6) Young Marrieds group
 - 7) Men's breakfast again
 - 8) Sunday school teachers
 - 9) Youth group leaders
 - 10) These opportunities begin with one person, but each one takes the body
 - 11) The church cannot exist as the church without passion, service, and sacrifice
- E) There is a wonderful story in the Book of Numbers. It has to do with the children of Israel marching toward the Promised Land. Moses said to his father-in-law, Jethro: "Come with us, and we will do you good; for the Lord has promised good to Israel".

The old man was not greatly moved by the invitation and declined. Moses persisted: "Do not leave us, I pray you, for you know how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and you will serve as eyes for us". Whereupon Jethro gladly accepted because he felt needed; he could justify the investment of his time. His son-in-law had said: "You will be our eyes." We are depending on your experience and leadership to get us through!

- 1) We need each of you
 - 2) Carol was the only teacher upstairs this morning
 - 3) Cornerstone depends upon each one of us being willing to sacrifice and serve
- F) On June 18, 1940, The *Times of London* published the last letter a young airman wrote to his mother. Pilot Officer V. A. Rosewarne had written: **SLIDE** "The universe is so vast and so ageless that the life of one man can only be justified by the measure of his sacrifice."
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