

Kingdom of God Part 11

Opposing Kingdoms

1. God's Kingdom = Review

- a. I had been talking about the “Keys to the Kingdom” over the past 3 sermons. We have spent quite a bit of time looking at three keys: Authority, Declarative Confession, and Faith. I would like to spend just a few more moments on faith before we move on this morning.
- b. Did you know that **Faith is the Language of Heaven**
 - i. We have access to God by faith. Faith is what pleases God. Without faith, it is “impossible” to please God.
 - ii. Faith is a higher law than natural laws.
 1. By faith we can bypass space and time; stepping into the timeless realm.
 2. Faith is the door between the natural and supernatural dimensions—without faith we can't enter the spiritual realm.
 3. It's essential that our faith is activated and operating at its potential.
- c. **Faith operates from Revelation.**
 - i. When we believe and decree by faith, we are reaching out of the natural realm of the limited, created world of matter into the spiritual realm of unlimited resources.
 - ii. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing from the word of God (revelation).”
 1. Present tense, not “having heard” but “hearing.”
 2. Faith is the language that moves that spiritual realm.
 3. The natural man doesn't understand this language, nor can he (see I Corinthians 2:14).
 4. The fallen mind of man doesn't know or understand that he is living below his created potential.
 5. Sin weakens faith, and when unrepentant of it, faith will eventually cease to operate completely.
 - iii. Faith is a higher law that exists out of time and operates from the law of higher truth not based on fact. *The truth is by His stripes you are healed, but the fact is you're sick.* Which is dominant, truth or fact?
 1. The bible is filled with people who were confronted by “facts” that contradicted what God said.
 - a. Abraham and Sarah – way too old to have kids!
 - b. Moses parting a massive sea?
 - c. Mary – a virgin who is going to be pregnant without relations?
 - d. Jesus raising a dead man, stilling a storm, multiplying food or healing untold thousands?
 2. In the natural world we learn by gathering information with our five senses. In the spirit realm we gain revelation (insight) with our spiritual senses.
 - a. Revelation is nothing more than the ability to think and act from the supernatural perspective of God.
 - b. We must stop questioning God.
 - c. **Instead of always looking for logical answers to natural problems, why don't we respond to God in faith?**

2. The Two Kingdoms

- a. The garden of Eden is considered by many to be the first manifestation of God's kingdom upon the earth. Everything was right there. There was no sin there, man was walking with God, under God's rule, the garden is perfect.
- b. What was unique about the Kingdom that was manifested in the garden? No sickness, death, disease, sorrow, excessive pain. (I say that b/c God said he would “greatly increase” Eve's child

birthing pain...which meant pain existed to warn us of danger of injury)...but there was a temptor and there were restrictions.

- i. When Satan convinced Adam and Eve to disobey God, they had to leave the garden (kingdom) because they had “JOINED” another kingdom.
- ii. God put an angel at the entrance until a “way” would be provided for mankind to once again partake of fellowship and the Tree of life.
- c. This same Satan tempted Jesus with his kingdom – his domain which he operates in on the earth:
 - i. Matthew 4:8-11 *“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ ” 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.”*
 - ii. The kingdom of this world is the kingdom of the devil. That is why Jesus refused to let the devil give it to Him. Jesus came to establish a different sort of kingdom, superior to and that one day would swallow up all of the kingdoms of this world. Satan was offering an inferior kingdom, one that was full of death, raw power, hatred, greed, self worship and evil.
 - iii. What was the price Satan demanded of Jesus to have these kingdoms? Of course, it was subservience to the master of evil, the king of demons.
 - iv. Jesus would have none of it, because he was born a king, and had no need of anyone else’s power, authority or kingship. He would bow before none but His Father, The God of Heaven, with whom He had known perfect unbroken fellowship from before the earth’s foundations were made.

d. When Jesus was on trial before Pilate, he made this statement.

- i. John 18:36 – *“Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”*
- ii. What kind of kingdom has followers who don’t fight for their king?
- iii. We know Peter tried to, in fact Jesus had encouraged him to bring a sword...but didn’t tell him to use it. That’s a strange little paradox.
 1. And then when Peter goes to defend Jesus, and slices and dices the High Priest’s servant’s ear, Jesus tells him to put away his sword, saying, *“all who live by the sword shall perish by it.”*
 2. Then Jesus does his usual strange miraculous act...he heals the ear of the very man who had come to take him prisoner. Imagine that...healing your enemy who has come to arrest and kill you. What kind of King can rule a kingdom doing stuff like that?
- iv. What kind of kingdom...
 1. Isn’t concerned with its self-preservation?
 2. Isn’t preoccupied with the destruction of its human opponents, but actually shows compassion upon them?
 3. What kind of kingdom is
 4. What kind of kingdom is not “of this world?” “from another place?” (world, realm)

3. Lets look at a few characteristics of these two opposing Kingdoms, because that is what we will be doing in the weeks to come:

- a. Acts 26:18 ...*“to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God.”*

- i. We ALL were captives of Satan’s kingdom, because we followed our own desires (and ultimately the desire of the devil). We were in the kingdom of darkness. We were born there. We were stuck there. We couldn’t get out even if we wanted to.
- ii. But Jesus came to open our eyes, so that we MIGHT turn FROM the kingdom of darkness TO the Kingdom of God.
 - 1. He opened our eyes literally by revealing our infinite worth by dying for us while we were still sinners, opposed to Him, enemies of Him. In so doing, He has helped us to see that our value and worth does not come from what we have, what we do, or even who we are. **Our value comes from the One who loves us.**
 - 2. Do you know why so many folks are depressed, why suicide is rampant in developed countries, why our jails are filled fuller than any other developed country? Because we have people who are lost in the kingdom of darkness, seeking to find value in something or somebody other than God.
 - 3. There is no value in that. Our value is understood and comprehended when we grasp in our hearts that God loves us DESPITE everything! We are, YOU are infinitely valuable to God. *Can you say it, “I am infinitely valuable and loved totally and completely by God.”*
- b. Col 1:13 *“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”*
- c. 1 Jn 3:8 “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.”
 - i. No one can do “good” while being a part of the Kingdom of darkness, and no one can do evil while being a part of the kingdom of Light.
- d. Col 1:12-14 “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
 - i. Kingdom of Darkness: that is where we all once lived. In self-worship, self-love, self-led lives that end with an implosion of self. Self says “I don’t need God.” That was the kingdom of darkness.
 - ii. The Kingdom of the Son – this is where God’s love is demonstrated. We realize God sees us with infinite worth and value...so valuable that He did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all...in that while we were still sinners, (still unloveable), Christ died for us.
 - iii. Rescued us! Redeemed us (bought us). And forgiven us!
- 4. **Only one King can rule in your life! That is why you have discord in your life when you straddle the fence** How about you? Are you straddling the fence? Do you know what happens to fence straddlers? They run out of fence sooner or later. You fall on one side or the other.
 - a. You and I exhibit the stresses associated with fence straddling. Those symptoms look like prayerlessness, religious activity, dissatisfaction with life itself,
 - b. Folks, you are going to have to make a choice, which king will you serve? The Kingdom of God will win in the end. How long will you remain miserable waiting for something to change in your life when Jesus has come to open your eyes so that you can CHOOSE which king you will serve.