

The Kingdom part 1– 7/15/18



The Kingdom message is life restoring, life building, life saving and its powerful. 1Corinthians 4:20 states:

- 1Cor4:20 “For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.”

The purpose today is to describe how the Kingdom message was preached in the new testament; so that we will gain insights on how we are to proclaim the Kingdom message to others now.

John the Baptist introduces the kingdom message in the new testament in Matthew 3:1-2

- Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
- Mat_3:2 "Repent, for *the kingdom of heaven* is at hand."

Jesus was baptized by John in Matthew 3:16 and was ‘led up by the Spirit into the wilderness’ (Matthew 4:1). Jesus fasted for 40 days and afterwards the Devil tempts him. Jesus responds each time by using the scriptures - ‘*It is written....*’ Matt 4:4, 4:7, 4:10.

Jesus's Ministry begins after the Devil leaves him. There are 2 foundational verses that I believe frame Jesus’ ministry. The first is found in Matthew 4:17

Matthew 4:17 states

- Mat_4:17 *From that time* Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for *the kingdom of heaven* is at hand."

From that time means from the start of Jesus’ ministry to the end of all 4 gospels Jesus was preaching the Kingdom.

The second verse that frames Jesus’ ministry purpose is in Luke 4:43 which states:

- Luk_4:43 But He said to them, "I must preach the *kingdom of God* to the other cities also, for *I was sent for this purpose.*"

Jesus’ purpose was to preach the kingdom message. Fast forward 5 chapters to chapter 9.

Jesus sent the Apostles out before him and commanded them in Luke 9:1-2:

- Luk 9:1 And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.
- Luk 9:2 And He sent them out **to proclaim the kingdom of God** and to perform healing.

Turn to the next chapter, chapter 10, and Jesus divides the 70 disciples into 2 man teams and sends them before Him in Luke 10:1 and 9:

- Luk 10:1 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.
- Luk_10:9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, '**The kingdom of God has come near to you.**'

Jesus spends 40 days with His disciples after He rises from the grave. What did Jesus say to the apostles and disciples during these 40 days? You don't have to wonder because Acts 1:3 tells what Jesus spoke about:

- Act 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of forty days* and speaking of the things concerning *the kingdom of God*.

Jesus gives a final command to the Apostles right before ascending into heaven in Mark 16:15

- Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
- Mar 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

Whenever signs, healings, deliverances are taking place in the bible you have the kingdom message being preached.

The final 2 verses of the book of Acts, Acts 28:30 & 31, shows Paul preaching '*the kingdom of God*' while in Rome.

- Act 28:30 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him,
- Act 28:31 preaching *the kingdom of God* and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

If you haven't caught on, Let me summarize the kingdom message so far:

John the Baptist preached the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus preached the kingdom of heaven. Jesus had the 12 apostles preach the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus commanded the 70 disciples go out before him preaching the Kingdom of God. Jesus preached the kingdom after he was resurrected. The Apostles continued to preach it after Jesus ascended to heaven.

Can we all agree that the kingdom message appears to be very important to the Father who sent Jesus; Jesus who died for the message and for the Holy Spirit by which all these signs happen?

I know what you're thinking, you want more proof, more evidence.

There are many other references in the bible linking the kingdom message to healing and deliverances such as:

- Mat 9:35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and **proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.
- Mat 10:7 "And as you go, preach, saying, '**The kingdom of heaven** is at hand.'
- Mat 10:8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.
- Mat 12:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then **the kingdom of God** has come upon you.
- Luk 9:11 But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He began speaking to them about **the kingdom of God** and curing those who had need of healing.

What hasn't been spoken about so far has been how baptism is tied to the kingdom message. There are miracles that happens at baptism but it's happening all on the unseen and not the seen.

- Our sins are washed away – we don't see that,
- we are written into the Lamb's book of life – we don't see that,
- we are transferred from the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of Jesus Christ – we don't see that.

Those are incredible events but they are all on the unseen. You should experience joy, peace and happiness after being baptized as a result of the unseen happening.

There are numerous passages in the new testament which demonstrates how baptism is linked to the Kingdom message. Phillip in the city of Samarian in Acts chapter 8 is a perfect example.

Phillip comes to Samaria in Acts 8:5

- Act 8:5 Phillip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.
- Act 8:6 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.

What signs was Phillip performing, the next verse states them: healing and deliverance.

- Act 8:7 For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.
- Act 8:8 So there was **much rejoicing** in that city.

The city heard and saw the power and authority of the Kingdom being demonstrated before them. Lives were restored. The pure joy of the city allowed the doorway into the kingdom, baptism, to be preached, believed and conducted in Acts 8:12

- Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

What caused the people in Samaria to be baptized?

They believed Phillip.

Why did they believe Phillip?

Because Phillip demonstrated the kingdom by healings and deliverances.

What came before healings and deliverances?

The kingdom and Jesus being preached.

Why did Phillip preach the Kingdom and Jesus before healings?

Without faith and belief no miracles will happen that is stated in Mat 13:58 & Acts 14:9

- Mat 13:58 And He did not do many miracles there because of their **unbelief**.
- Act_14:9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that **he had faith to be made well**,

What's not mentioned are the 2 crucial keys that needs to be used prior to preaching Christ and the Kingdom. Those keys are Apostle level praying. Praying what the Apostles prayed. The first key is found in Acts 4:29-30

- Act 4:29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and **grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence**,

- Act 4:30 while **You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place** through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

The first key was praying for confidence in preaching the word and that healing, signs and wonders take place thru Jesus' name.

The second key is found in Acts 16:14

- Act 16:14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the **Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.**

Why did the Lord all of the sudden open Lydia's heart?

Because the Lord answered Paul's heart opening prayer in Ephesians 1:18

- Eph_1:18 **I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

The biblical process of preaching the kingdom message resulting in baptism is as follows:

- Start each day with prayer that you will be able to preach with confidence on the word
- Start each day with prayer that healings, sign and wonders in Jesus' name will happen
- Start each day with prayer that those who the Lords leads to you will have their hearts open to respond
- Preach the good news and the mighty works of the kingdom of God
- Preach that Jesus is the King of the kingdom and what He did
- Expect that the Lord will confirm the kingdom words with signs as in Mark 16:20
- Preach that Jesus is the door to the kingdom and baptism is the means to enter the door.

When are people ready for baptism?

When they are convicted in their heart and tell you. 3 passages in the book of Acts where the people let the Apostles know that they were ready for the next step.

The people gathered around the Apostles at Pentecost in Acts 2:37:

- Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "**Brethren, what shall we do?**"

The Ethiopian Eunuch asked Phillip:

- Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, "**Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?**"

The jailer of Paul and Silas in Acts 16:30 asked:

- Act 16:30 and after he brought them out, he said, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**"

Baptism is the result of preaching the word.

Unfortunately, many people have been brainwashed that the bible is just a made up book so speaking of the mighty deeds of God by the bible verses may not convince them. How then do

you preach of the mighty works of God. Declaring your testimonies to others. Revelation 12:11 speaks that you can overcome by your testimony.

- Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and **because of the word of their testimony**, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Jesus already shed his blood so how can your testimony change lives? Because it's been done before and there are examples in the Bible where entire cities have been transformed because of the testimony of one person such as:

In Luke chapter 8, Jesus delivers a legion of demons from a man in the tombs and the city comes out and tells Jesus to leave. The man whom Jesus healed asks if he could go with him and Jesus says to the man.

- Lk8: 39 "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.
- Lk8:40 And as Jesus returned, the people welcomed Him, for they had all been waiting for Him.

The testimony of one man delivered caused the people to eagerly wait and then welcomed Jesus when he returned

In John chapter 4, Jesus just speaks with a woman by the well without performing any healing or deliverance and the woman goes off and testifies to those in the city.

- Jn4: 28 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men,
- Jn4:29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"
- Jn4:30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

The testimony of that one woman transformed that city.

Paul's testimony in front of King Agrippa was so powerful that the King was being convinced to be a Christian in Acts 26:28.

- Acts 26: 28 Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

Your testimony helps create, build and strengthen another person's faith and belief with the Lord opening their heart to respond and for miracles to happen.

Miracles lead to other miracles as people's faith and belief are raised by what they are seeing and hearing. That is the pattern shown in the Bible.

You may say, I don't have any testimonies to tell others. Make them. Not make fake ones up but go to the place where you know the Kingdom's power and authority is coming down, where kingdom miracles are happening and be a part of it. Members of this church have gone to Pastor Cox's deliverance session in Oklahoma city on Monday nights. He is the Pastor on Hope is Alive radio program on Wednesday nights.

- I, myself, have been thru deliverance, been thru the training, and led deliverances
- I've seen healings happen,
- I've seen victories in deliverances,
- I've seen lives restored.

Seeing all that takes you to a place beyond faith and beyond hope because both faith and hope are unseen as stated in Hebrews 11:1 and Romans 8:24

- Hebrews 11:1 Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**
- Romans 8:24 For in hope we have been saved, but **hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?**

What's beyond faith and beyond hope?

Knowing that the bible is true, that the promises of the bible will come to pass.

With healing and deliverances you are seeing the kingdom power and authority coming down from heaven.

Philip also preached the GOOD NEWS of the kingdom of God. Fear based preaching increases attendance for a season.

Church attendance after 9/11 shot up because of the fear of another terrorist attack but it only took 2 months before church attendance began going down. Their initial attendance in church wasn't because of a change in their heart. Preaching the good news of the kingdom allows one to overcome their fears.

Here's your homework assignment. Meditate about what great works that Jesus has done in your life. What mighty acts that you have witnessed because these are your testimonies that you can share with others as you preach the kingdom to others.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/2002/09/11/church-attendance-back-to-normal.html>