

Kingdom Living, pt.2, 3.15.09

Advancing God's Kingdom Through Warfare

Intro

1. Dinah Hancock to share vision
 - a. You must act on your authority. Authority w/o action leads to servitude. You must activate your authority.
2. David's Kingdom was a forerunner of the Kingdom of God. David is a forerunner of the kind of person God uses to advance His Kingdom. The focus of this series is to look into David's life and see how we can aggressively move God's Kingdom forward in our daily life. Scriptural linkage betw David & Jesus' Kingdom.
 - a. 2 S.7.16
 - b. Ps.89.35–37 ³⁵ *I have sworn an oath to David, and in my holiness I cannot lie:*
³⁶ *His dynasty will go on forever; his kingdom will endure as the sun.*
 - c. Is.9.6f
 - d. Rev.22.16 – *I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne.*
3. One of the foundational aspects of both Kingdoms (David & Jesus) is that they **advance through warfare.**

I. Warfare In David's Kingdom

a. Scripture

- i. David was described – 1 S.16.18 – “man of war” & 2 S.17.8 .
 1. 1 Chron.22.8 & 28.3 describe that David could not build God's house b/c he was a man of war.
 2. 1 Chron.28.3 – *But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.'*
- ii. 1 S.17 – David & Goliath
- iii. 18.13–16 – Led troops into battle
- iv. 19.8 – defeated the Phil

- v. 22.2 – David gathered the discontented one
- vi. 23.1–5 – defeated the Phil at Keilah
- vii. 27 – defeated other enemies
- viii. 30 – defeated the Amalekites
- ix. 2 S.5.6–25 – at war with the Jebusites & Phil
- x. 8 – defeated the Moabites & Arameans
- xi. 10 – defeated the Ammonites
- xii. 12.26 – defeated the capitol of Ammon
- xiii. 18 – overcame his son’s insurrection
- xiv. 20 – overcame the rebellion of Shiba
- xv. 21.15–22 – a description of his victories over the Phil giants.
- xvi. **David committed to grave sins and they both dealt with the military. 2 S.11.1 mentions that he was to go to war but he decided to stay home. Eventually, this led to the adultery with Bethsheba. In 2 S.24, it’s recorded that David counted his troops. He was prideful of his strength. Both sins were punished**

b. The reasons there was warfare:

- i. The people were in bondage to their enemies geographically and spiritually.
 1. They weren’t living in abundance. God had promised them a land flowing with milk & honey and they were living in fear & want. Geographically they were in bondage & hemmed in by foreign nations.
 2. Spiritually, they were bound up in serving foreign gods. They weren’t worshipping their God, but rather serving false gods (demons). They had compromised with their calling (take the land) and convictions (to love & obey God).
 3. David wanted his people liberated from their enemies. Liberation from your enemy doesn’t

come through compromise or soft response.

There must be aggression.

- a. We can't be like the European leaders prior to WW2 who compromised with Hitler
- b. The enemy of mankind will not give up w/o a fight even though he is defeated. He didn't with Jesus, the early church or the martyrs of today.
- c. We war b/c people are in bondage to a real enemy

ii. The people were not living in their birthright.

1. The land belonged to them. The people weren't living as a kingdom of priests for the nations.
2. David didn't war b/c he had a bad attitude or was greedy for more land or fame. He went to war b/c his enemies were challenging his people's rightful inheritance.
3. Story in World Mag, Dec.13, '08, about Zakaria Botros

II. Warfare in God's Kingdom

a. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil – 1 John 3.8 –

i. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

b. And establish His Father's Kingdom – Matt.6.10

i. If he had only introduced his Father's Kingdom and not given authority to destroy satan's then there would never be victory. In order to have the victorious Kingdom, he defeated the enemy's kingdom and then gave us authority to dismantle it.

ii. A very clear sign of the authority and reign of God's Kingdom is the defeat of the enemy through exorcism – Luke 11.20.

c. Scriptural ex

- i. Mk.3.27 (Luke 11.21f) – Js understood himself to be tying up the strong man and rendering him ineffective by his teachings, healings, deliverances and esp by his death & resurrection. We now can go into the enemy’s encampment and take away his treasures. We now pillage the enemy’s encampment (Verse of the month, Mt.16.18f.) and establish God’s Kingdom.
 - 1. Mark 3.27 – Let me illustrate this further. Who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.
 - 2. Luke 11.21f. – For when a strong man like Satan is fully armed and guards his palace, his possessions are safe—²² until someone even stronger attacks and overpowers him, strips him of his weapons, and carries off his belongings
- ii. Healing, exorcism, teaching, acts of compassion all radically advance God’s Kingdom over satan’s. Jesus never treated disease & demonization as some type of blessing from God or that they served a divine purpose. They were seen as a work from the enemy.
- iii. Peter attributed sickness as a work of the devil when he said, that Jesus went around “doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.” (A.10.38)
- iv. Other Scriptures: Eph.6.10–12, Col.2.14f, Heb.2.14f, Eph.1.22.
- v. The purpose of the warfare is the similar to the warfare during David’s time. It’s to oust the enemies of God from property that belongs to God’s people, so they can live in their inheritance.
- vi. Again, it’s very similar to the commission of Adam & Eve in the Garden. They were to take the dominion they were given and multiply themselves and the Garden over the planet. They were not to exploit the

environment, but rather expand it so that it filled the earth. They had authority over every living thing which included Satan. I believe we are now back to the place in both our relationship and authority that Adam & Eve shared.

- III. The Blueprint Worldview (a simplification of both views)
 - a. Everything that happens whether good or bad is all a part of God's will. All suffering is a part of God's mysterious plan and serves a higher good. We should learn to resolve ourselves to God's plan and trust His sovereignty
 - b. The Bible teaches that God is the source of everything and sovereign over history. Sometimes he exercises control over history by miraculously intervening in history and predestining certain events. God's purpose with mankind is establish His Kingdom among them and they will serve as His Son's bride in this work. God is the omnipotent Creator who is guiding the world to His desired end.
 - c. Many Christians have concluded that in order for God to accomplish his goal that everything that happens is a part of this divine plan. It all fits into the "blueprint." This view takes on many forms but each shares the assumption that whether ordained by God or allowed by Him there is a divine reasoning behind it.
 - i. A person goes on a killing rampage in AL or in a church...God has his reasons.
 - ii. This creates a major problem with the issue of evil, because it puts God squarely in the middle of it. How can a good God either allow or ordain such evil events?
 - d. This view can paralyze Christians. They don't see that what they do matters one way or the other. God will do whatever God wants to do. Since God controls everything, my prayers and actions have the appearance of changing events, but they actually don't.
- IV. The Warfare Worldview

- a. We are at war. Satan opposes God's will and all evil that happens is not a part of God's plan. God is the ultimate authority over the world but people and demons can resist His will and frustrate His purposes. When tragedy happens it should not be assumed there is some divine reason behind it.
 - i. Shooting in AL & at the church. Satan was behind it, but God can redeem it. The same with a person abusing children. It's not a part of God's will, but God can redeem it.
 - ii. God can win with a pair of twos. He can take something tragic and turn it into good.
- b. My actions or inaction in prayer and service can change the outcome of the battle (not the war).
 - i. David's actions changed the course of Israel's history, just as King Saul's action changed the course of Israel's history.
 - ii. Your actions or inaction will either advance God's Kingdom or hinder it.
- c. One of our goals this year is that "Everyone Serves." This isn't primarily b/c we have a bunch of needs and therefore need workers. In part, it's b/c what you do matters to the outcome of the battle.
 - i. Example of Joann Rahb teaching the children. She is teaching truth that is building a foundation in them. They will have a strong foundation in the Lord so that in hardship they will stand and when others are in need they can point them to the truth. Each link of the chain is vital for the full development of the person and his destiny in God.
 - ii. Praying for affordable housing and the possibility of the new development in Clute. How does that fit into advancing God's Kingdom? B/c God himself cares. Having a decent, affordable housing can change a person's mindset and destiny. Every Christian should

be serving and because serving changes the outcome of the war.

- iii. Or prayers, beliefs and actions are forms of warfare that advance God's Kingdom.

Conclusion

1. The Application for me - We are partners with God. David could have folded many times under stress and hardships. If he had, Israel would not have experienced the victories God desired and lived in her inheritance.. David continually pushed Israel's kingdom forward.
2. Likewise, what we do matters! We can sit back and talk about how bad things and feel like we have nothing to contribute or we can join Jesus in his war to advance His Father's Kingdom.
3. Lord's Supper - "they overcame him with the blood of the Lamb & the word of their testimony
4. We are to overcome not be overcome. We are the victors not the victims. We are to advance not retire.
5. Review "reasons for warfare."

Warfare In David's Kingdom

- d. The reasons there was warfare:
 - i. The people were in bondage to their enemies geographically and spiritually.
 - ii. The people were not living in their birthright.

Kingdom Living, pt.3, 3.29.09

Intro

1. Warfare in God's Kingdom
 - a. Video
 - b. Verse of the month
2. Review

In Advancing God's Kingdom...

- Worship must be at the center of your life – the Psalms of David; 1 Sam.16.14–23; 17.37, 45–47; 2 Sam. 5 – 6.
 - David gave himself completely to God and he had an absolute confidence that God was with him.
 - He brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem & set up 24/7 worship. By bringing it to Jerusalem (the capitol) he ushered in the presence of God over the whole nation. What happens at the cultural & political centers of power has a cascading effect upon everyone else. Such was the case with bringing the Ark to Jerusalem.
 - Worship is both an practice/discipline & lifestyle. The practice is praising, thanking & expressing gratefulness to God. We do it congregationally weekly and should do it privately daily. The lifestyle is giving your entire life to the Lord and placing His desires first in every part of your life. It is making your life an offering.
 - One way you know worship is accomplished when you can live in peace despite what's swirling about us. This physical building is a sanctuary – where there is protection & rest.
 - We war with the enemy when we rest in Jesus. Resting is a posture of faith and confidence before God. There are times we need to take aggressive action, and there are times we need to rest in expectation.

- The devil tries to get into apathy – “whatever happens will happen; it doesn’t matter what I do or not do”– or Anxiety – “I haven’t done enough...done too much...etc”. One leads to faithlessness and the other to striving.
- Rest comes when you know that God has heard you in worship and you are confident that He will deliver. Some call this “praying it through.” It’s Psalm 91.1f –
 - ¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

- You received assurance from God that He has heard & will answer and now you rest in Him. Some were resting, but have returned to striving.
- David contended for the presence of God to permeate every part of Israel’s existence. He fought over the city of Jerusalem. It was a central location and he brought the ark of the Covenant into the city. He established 24/7 worship before the presence of God. He made worship (the action & lifestyle) a central part of Israel’s identity.
 - We need to contend for the manifest presence of God in our hearts, homes, church and community. It changes people.
 - 1 Sam.19.19–24 pictures what happens when the Spirit of God invades a region. It changes those in it.
 - The presence of God changes things. It makes unbearable situations bearable; hopeless...hopeful; death...life. Presence brings salvation to people.
 - Worship – the practice – is what centers our lives. It puts God in His rightful spot. Worship connects Heaven to earth

- The Story of Handel's Messiah. P.223 in The Worship Warrior..The King of England stood b/c he was getting into alignment with Heaven and that alignment is what changes our hearts, family, church, community & nation.
 - It has nothing to do with the style of music, but completely with the heart of the worshipper.
 - At the stronghold of the Jebusites David erected an altar of praise. It's the same with our lives. As the strongholds of our life are overcome, God wants to establish an altar of praise there.
 - If you really want to worship God, We must contend against the strongholds in our thinking and life.
 - Jerusalem was a pagan stronghold, but was turned into a city of praise. What occurred with that city is what God wants to do in your heart!
- Be a Unifier (not a divider)
 - Examples:
 - The people David reconciled with – King Saul (he tried); Abner & Amasa (two of Saul's generals who sought David's life)
 - He didn't take vengeance on King Saul's kin – Mephibosheth, Ishbosheth – or Shimei.
 - He had good relations with some of the surrounding kingdoms and didn't see them all as his enemy.
 - He lived at peace as much as possible. He didn't compromise his convictions in his alliances.
 - We may think that in order to get along we have to compromise our beliefs. David held true to his convictions with a positive attitude.
 - Sometimes we feel pressured to change and other times we use pressure to change people. You can be unifier

- Unlike the other King's of Israel, David blessed his chief opponent and enlisted other antagonist as his allies.
- You can't be a unifier if you can't forgive. In order to walk in victory and radically advance God's kingdom, you have to forgive. Some of you feel cold in your relationship with God and it's b/c you have not forgiven. God is allowing you to feel what the absence of His presence is like. When you harbor anger & unforgiveness you are quenching the activity of God.
 - It's like walking away from underneath an umbrella.
- God wants us to walk in harmony and peace with one another. He wants our lives to be an expression of His which is one of unity. When we release, bless and work towards peace with others, we receive release, blessing and peace with God.
 - How is God able to live in unity with us? He forgave us. The same is true for us. The way we live in unity with God & others is that we forgive those who sin against us.
- God loves unifiers!
- There seems to be a correlation between unity, worship and advancement. In 2 S.5 David is made King over all Israel; In 2 S.6&7, he brings God's presence into Jerusalem; In 2 Sm.8, he rapidly advances his Kingdom. I believe the same is true for us.
 - Unity + Worship = Great advancement against the enemy.
 - *War for Marriage word from Patricia King in February. On Prophetic page on website, "Marriages Under Attack."*
- Take responsibility of your area of the Kingdom

- Personally
 - Know yourself – know your weaknesses and radically guard those areas of your life.
 - Jimmy Draper’s words – Don’t ever think you wouldn’t do certain sinful things.
 - Satan exploits our weaknesses. David’s weaknesses were in the areas of pride and sexuality and correction. We have to put guards around our life.
 - Sexuality – 2 Sam.5.13–15 (Deut.17.17). David had an open door in this area of his life. He thought that as king and God’s favored one he could get away with adultery in 2 Sam.11. It led to all kinds of sin and death.
 - Men know yourself in this area.
 - Pride – 2 Sam.24. David counts the troops. This wasn’t to be done. David was to trust in God rather than His troop strength. This again was an open door in David’s life that Satan used to gain access. It led to the death of 70,000 Israelites.
 - Success is a weird thing. It’s what we all strive for, but it can end up killing us & others.
 - **Pride is what led King Saul from God. 1 Sam.15.22 – rebellion and stubbornness. Rebellion – you won’t receive correction and don’t plan to change; Stubbornness – you won’t submit to plans & correction of others.**
 - **How a person receives and responds to correction from others is a measurement of the pride index.**
 - **David would not listen to the counsel of others; Saul didn’t listen to the correction of Samuel. They both chose paths that led them away from God**
 - **Pride is an issue every human has.**

- David took responsibility of the sins of pride & adultery. This is what set David apart from other kings.
 - Family
 - Amnon – 2 Sam.13 esp v.21(footnote)
 - From the Dead Sea Scrolls & Gk version – “but he did not punish his son Amnon, b/c he loved him, for he was his firstborn.”
 - Adonijah – 1 Ki.1–2, esp.1.6
 - “a never a word did his father say to check or challenge him.”
 - Now his father had never in his life restrained him
 - Not so much as by a single scolding!
 - When you don’t take responsibility others get hurt. If David had acted as he should with Amnon, the problems described in 2 Sam.13.23 – 2 Sam. 20 would not have occurred. There was massive loss of life and the death of Absalom & Amnon all b/c David did not take responsibility with his children. David wanted reconciliation rather than confrontation. His unwillingness to correct eventually led to an insurrection.
 - The activity of God in our life is limited by our unwillingness to deal with matters God has given us responsibility over. Pray & cry all you want, but when God has given you responsibility in an area He expects you to take the appropriate action. If you don’t deal with it appropriately don’t expect a good outcome.
 - David created failure when he didn’t confront a problem.
 - How much junk has happened in your life, b/c you decided that you weren’t going to do anything...to see what would happen. Sometimes seeing how things

develop is wisdom & sometimes it's negligence, irresponsibility and sometimes it's cowardice.

- David knew this was wrong, but he allowed his compassion to effect his discipline. It led to the needless deaths of two sons and thousands of troops.
- The opposite is true too. When we take responsibility the activity of God increases in our lives and in the lives of others.
- Nationally
 - Gibeonites – 2 Sam.21. David handled this crisis appropriately.
 - The Philistines & other enemy nations. David didn't let them remain in the Promised Land uncontested.
 - When we see a wrong or something that must be addressed and we have responsibility then we must do something. We aren't called to take on all the world's problems, but when it involves an area of your responsibility you must do something.
 - One of David's greatest strengths and he took responsibility of those areas that were national in scope, i.e., growing the Kingdom, destroying the enemies of Israel, building a worship environment.
 - One of David's greatest weaknesses is that he didn't deal with personal conflict well. He hid from it and others suffered.
 - Joab –(2 Sam.3.38–39) the King's general who was ruthless. He killed two of David's commanders, Abner & Amasa, and he killed David's son, Absalom. David should have removed Joab from that position of authority, but he decided otherwise. Joab's actions led to many unnecessary deaths. David didn't confront him. He might've been scared, fearful of a confrontation, uncertain of an outcome, etc. God gave

David responsibility & David neglected his duties and he others suffered.

- Don't ask God to do your job or bringing correction. Ask him for wisdom, but don't ask him bring correction.
 - Speculation: David might have been scared of Joab's response.
 - Application: We can't let the uncertainty of someone's response dictate our decision to discipline. We need to dispense it in a way that is the most profitable for the person. You don't discipline everyone the same.
 - When we don't take responsibility and enforce the – rules of the company, law, moral conscience, family rule – we feel frustrated and grow angry at that person or God.
 - To advance God's Kingdom in your life, you must enforce discipline. Discipline of the mind, body and spirit is a good thing. Disciplining others is a good thing for them and those around them.
 - Listen to the discernment radar. (David knew something wasn't right with Joab, but he didn't act) God put it there for you & others. It's there to guide, protect and to correct. Young people – sometimes you press pass that radar b/c you think it's some sort of parental hurdle, but it's God.
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- Know that not every battle/assignment is your battle/assignment
 - 1 S.23.2–4, 30.8; 2 S.5.19–25 – David inquired of the Lord about which battles to fight. He didn't assume that he was to fight every battle.
 - Ill – Saving Private Ryan – taking on machine gun nest when he didn't have to.

- A good fight doesn't make your fight! Just b/c something is a good thing doesn't make it the right thing.
- We can overstep our bounds when we respond to a need out of guilt(I guess I'll do something), gifting (I can do something) (money, time, skill, resources) or indignation (I must do something). We see a problem/cause/injustice/opportunity and we jump at it. Jesus saw injustice all around him (political, economic, demonic), but he only responded to that which the Father directed. John 5.3–6 illustrates this. The man he healed at the Pool of Bethesda was surrounded by sick people, but Jesus only healed him. When we fight battles that aren't our battles there are unnecessary casualties.
- You can't get sidetracked!
 - By your antagonist – David & Nabal (1 S.25.26–35) David could have killed both of these men and had blood guilt on his hands.
 - Slight, well intended diversions can have long ranging impact. Just like David listened to Abigail, you have to listen to those who have your best interest at heart. Our job is to advance His Kingdom; His job is to take care of the antagonists.
 - By great opportunities – David & Saul (1 S.24, 26). Most people would have seen this as the will of God. It was not the Lord's timing...a great opportunity!
 - When we get involved in things not matter how wonderful or powerful that are outside of God's will for us (though they are God's will for others) somebody pays. The family, children, spouse, pocketbook, our health takes a toll when you do good things that are not in God's time. What looks like an open door can actually be a trap door
- Summary: Not every battle is your battle

- God is looking for responsiveness not perfection
 - We have a false notion that God can only use people who have it all together or don't struggle with any major sin issues.
 - David faced four grave sin battles
 - 2 Sam.11 – 12 – Adultery with Bethsheba & the murder of Urriah. This led to the death of their child & family division (2 S.12.10–12).
 - 2 S.15–18 – Absalom's insurrection. This led to Absalom's death & 1000's of soldiers.
 - 2 S.21 – The famine in the land due to the sin against the Gibeonites.
 - 2 S.24 – The taking of the census.
 - How did David respond to these
 - Adultery, murder & death of 70,000 – he sought God's forgiveness and deeply repented. (Ps.32 & 51)
 - Absalom's rebellion – 2 S.15.26 & 16.10–13 indicates he was humbled. He saw this insurrection and insult as possibly the hand of God. (Ps.3 & 63)
 - Gibeonite's injustice – he rectified the situation.
 - He sought God's mercy over the census.
 - Summary – David was responsive.
 - When confronted with his sin he bent his knee to the Lord; when confronted with a discipline from God he looked inward; when confronted with a natural disaster he sought the Lord. He responded to the Lord, whereas many kings would have been defensive, blind and hardened to the activity of God.
 - We can't be perfect, but we can be responsive. Responsiveness (listening & acting) to the Lord means we are humble (we will respond to the rebuke) **and able to take correction (we will respond to His direction).** **There is both humility & capability.**

- When we are responsive to God's rebuke (correction); He is responsive to our repentance.
 - The Lord's discipline will either harden your heart or soften it. Pharoah hardened his heart; whereas David softened his.

- Realize your life should be foundation for future generations
 - 1 Chron.22 - 29 details the preparation for building the Temple. David wanted to build the Temple but God said he couldn't. This was a responsibility given to Solomon.
 - David did all the physical preparations for the construction of the Temple; he raised all the finances; he enlisted all the workers; He also defeated a multitude of enemies so his son didn't have to fight them.
 - David's ceiling was Solomon's floor.
 - Appl - We need to build into the lives of our natural & spiritual children, grand-children & great grand children. We need to be a source of encouragement to them. We need to take on the enemies of God (in our mind, habits, beliefs & in the area) so that they don't have to.
 - Let our focus be on those who follow. We are building something for them.
 - Ill - Many churches are dying and part of the reason is b/c the some in the older generation refuses to turn the reigns over to the younger. I know of one church that had decreased to about 20 people nearly all of whom we over the age of 70. They interviewed a young preacher and heard of his plans to transition the church. The people grew afraid and many didn't want to make the necessary changes. Finally, one of the respected leaders of the group said, "We're all going to be dead in 5 - 10 years. Let's give him the opportunity to make changes so this church can outlive us." They did and the church has!

- David fought the Philistines relentlessly (1 Sam.17, 18, 19, 23, 2 Sam.5, 8, & 21), but Solomon never did. We sometimes must attack the enemy, so that those who follow us don't have to fight the enemy. The reason I want to live a life for Christ and do what I can in pursuing Jesus and building His Kingdom is so that my kids and those who follow after me don't have to fight the same battles.
- Please remove the Thomas Kinkade painting from the frame of your mind.
 - Read David's life in one sitting – 1 Sam.16 – 1 Kings 2 – and notice the flow and rhythm of his life.
 - We seek the ideal, but we don't stumble over reality. I am pressing for “on earth as it is in Heaven”, and I'm going to enjoy every inch of growth I see. I will not despise small beginnings, and I will not grow discouraged when something doesn't develop as I thought it would or should.
 - If 12 guys didn't get it right after spending three years with Jesus, what makes you think you'll get it right?
 - Quit your complaining about not having the ideal life, family, relationships, church, job, etc? The ideal is there for you to have something to shoot at, but it's not there to be used to shoot yourself with. We complain too much about what isn't right rather enjoying and being grateful for what is right.
 - We are insisting on perfection before the perfect has come. (1 Cor.13.10f.)
 - I realize some of you are living in really hard places and you just want relief. You'd be happy with sub-normal, and I pray God's grace on you, but to others you are plain goofy. You have perceptions that are unbalanced. God wants you to enjoy the journey as you continue to pray and expect “on earth as it is in Heaven.” He wants you to look at what He is doing or has done rather than focusing on what hasn't happened.

Conclusion:

In Advancing God's Kingdom...

- Worship must be at the center of your life – the Psalms of David; 1 Sam.16.14–23; 17.37, 45–47; 2 Sam. 5 – 6.
- Be a Unifier – 1 Sam.24, 26; 2 Sam.3, 19.
- Take responsibility of your area of the Kingdom.
- Know that not every battle/opportunity is your battle/opportunity
- God is looking for responsiveness not perfection
- Realize your life should be the foundation for future generations

Please remove the Thomas Kinkade painting from the frame of your mind.