

The Kingdom of God, pt.2, 7.1.07

Kingdom Markers

Introduction

1. Stephanie's testimony about the change of thinking concerning leisure and work.
 2. How do you know you're in Huntsville (statue), Pasadena (smell), Clute (giant inflatable mosquito)? How do you know you've crossed from one piece of property to the next? Markers, sign posts, fence, landscape, etc. all points to a change. How do we know – we've encountered the Kingdom of God? Living according to Kingdom principles? Look at markers that indicate we're walking in the Kingdom of God.
 3. Jesus primary purpose – **Jesus came to establish the KOG on earth; to bring the reign of God from heaven to earth!**
 4. Definition of the Kingdom of God – It is the reign of Jesus in every area of life.
 5. Two perfect examples of the KOG – the garden of Eden before the Fall of mankind and the millennial reign of Christ.
 6. Gen.1–3; Rev.20
- I. Walking in authority
 - a. Scripture: Gen.1.26, 28; 2.15; Rev.20.4, 6
 - b. “reign/rule” & “govern/subdue” – have dominion; man's mastery over animate & inanimate creation, such as humanity's mastery over the powers of nature – water, electricity, chemicals. We are to harness these things for the purposes of the King so they fulfill the purpose for their existence. **NOT TO ABUSE IT!**
 - c. I am to bring everything under His control. Gen.1.28 is the colonist charter. A colonist is the representative from another country who comes to a foreign land to subdue a foreign land for his home country.
 - i. Example of early colonist. They weren't in America simply representing their interest, but rather that of

England or Spain. **They were bringing the land under the control of those nations.** Also, the monks carrying the banner of the cross or a crucifix into a village.

- d. This is what I'm supposed to do in every part of my life. I'm not to subjugate it for my purposes, but rather to the purposes of God in that context. You walk into your job and say, "I am bringing the reign of the King into the area of influence God has given me." (Audience participation)
 - i. Example - work for Bucees as a cashier. Your circle of influence are fellow co-workers, customers and supervisors. You have varying levels of influence based upon relationships. Pray, "I want to use the influence you've given me in each of these realms to usher in Your Kingdom reign so that your will is done." (Use illustration with audience participation).
 1. Interaction with customer
 2. Interaction with co-worker
 3. Interaction with supervisor
 4. In each relationship, **you are intentionally working** to bring the reign of the King to bear. **You have dominion wherever the King has given you influence.** You may not be able to directly influence the regional direction of Bucees for the KOG, but you can indirectly through your relationships and prayer.
 5. Lady cleaning my parent's house; she's praying for my parents & her children; demonstrating the servant heart of Christ. She's not just making money by cleaning a house; she's bringing the dominion of the kingdom of God into my parent's lives by meeting their needs.
 6. Crossing guard at Rasco.
 - ii. In my life
 1. Heart/attitude - I am to subjugate all "wild & untamed areas"; "tend" & cultivate the areas of

fruitfulness; we aren't equally fruitful in every area of our lives

2. Relationship with Stephanie – not allow weeds to grow up in our relationship; gently tend the broken areas; water the barren places; enjoy the areas of fruitfulness
 3. Work as Pastor – both tending & directing the flock; I'm to be sensitive to the needs of the sheep individually & collectively; as a shepherd I have to move the whole flock to a certain destination as the Chief Shepherd directs (we can't stay in the same place too long or we'll run out of food; you must move based upon season, etc.)
 4. Community leader – how are you calling me to influence the community?
- e. “tend/watch over” (2.15) – The Garden of Eden was perfect, but it still required attention. They couldn't be lax or hope that it would take care of itself. They had to work in order to keep the Garden in the proper condition. God gave them complete freedom on how this was to be done.
- i. Psalm 116.16: The heavens belong to the Lord, but he has given the earth to all humanity.
 - ii. I am to work and carry out the responsibility God has given me. I can't expect God to do my part. We often expect God to do something that He's given us charge to do. We are to ask Him for wisdom, power and direction, but we are to do the work.
 - iii. God made us to work (and we'll work in Heaven & earth) and we find fulfillment when we are doing the work He has for us at each season in life. You will not be satisfied unless you are accomplishing God's life work at a each particular season in your life.
 1. Sometimes we know our long term work and think the road we walk to get there is just filler,

but it's just as important as the work we'll ultimately do. Don't relegate that activity to non-essential status. It's just as important to tend that part-time job you're doing while your getting your degree or looking for that full time job. The travel time is equally as valuable as the destination. God has given you dominion there, so watch over it.

- iv. God gives us freedom on how our life's work is to be done as long as it brings him honor.
- v. "Tend/watch over" also includes our bodies. We are to take care of our bodies - nutrition, exercise, development, preventative care and critical care. We pray for healing, and deal with lifestyle habits that might have opened the door for sickness. 1 Cor.6.19f, "You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." Asking God for healing and not taking care of your body is the same as a person asking God for deliverance but not stopping the addictive behavior. God may do it out of His great mercy, but He usually responds to partnership efforts - faith & care.
- vi. Matt.25 - Parable of the talents/money changers. It's all a matter of taking care of that which the Lord has entrusted you with - body, mind, spirit, relationships, job, money, spiritual gifts...
- f. Inherent in this dominion is authority over satanic influence. Adam & Eve had authority over Satan (1.26, 28). Satan is a part of the created order and was crawling along the ground. They didn't have to listen to him; they had authority over him. God didn't warn them about him, b/c they had authority that extended to every area of life. Likewise, as an ambassador of the King I don't have to put up with demonic

interference in my life. I claim the reign of the King in each situation and expect it to submit to Him.

- i. Alternate ending to Mark 16.14 in NLT. Satan's reign has come to an end.
 - ii. Quote from Charles Carrin's June '07 Gentle Conquest
- g. Summary: We are to walk in Kingdom authority in the areas of influence God has given us. We are to bring these realms under the reign and influence of the King. We are to tend & watch over these areas/relationships.

II. Fruitfulness

- a. Scripture: Gen.1.28, Luke 19.11–27, Rev.22.2
- b. It is God's will that you be fruitful (John 15.5, 8, 16). God made you to be fruitful both naturally and spiritually.
- c. What kind of fruit?
 - i. Children – if God has called you to be married; seek the Lord about the # of children
 - ii. Fruit of the Spirit
 - iii. Relationships filled with love
 - iv. Work characterized by excellence (no slothfulness,
 - v. Mark 16 – salvation, healing, deliverance, gifts of the Spirit, etc.
- d. For good or bad, we reproduce what we are. If I'm patient and gentle to my children, then eventually that will be reproduced in their lives. God said, "Each reproduces after its own kind."
- e. When you see fruitfulness in your life in the small & big ways that is a clear marker of the kingdom of God. When people are blessed b/c of your work, someone's life is made easier b/c of you, a nation opens up to the gospel b/c of your prayers, or you comfort a child in need those are markers of fruitfulness which is a sign of the KOG.

III. No Sin or Shame

- a. Scripture: Gen.2.25; Rev.21.4, 27
- b. It's not possible at this point of history to live with no sin, but I can walk in a fuller understanding of what Christ

accomplished for me on the cross. He not only forgave me of sin, but he defeated the power of sin w/in me. He conquered by sinful nature.

- c. Also, I don't have to walk in shame over my sins. They are forgiven & forgotten. Whenever I begin to relive a sinful moment or habit in my life I can thank God that it was forgiven by the blood of Jesus.
- d. When you feel that release and can be transparent about your failures those are markers of the KOG.
- e. As I walk in victory over my sinful nature and through the power of the HS see victory over strongholds in my life those are markers of the KOG.

IV. Relational unity & unconditional love

- a. Scripture: Gen.2.18, 22; Rev.21.9–21
- b. Adam & Eve received each other unconditionally; the Bride of Christ is characterized as a beautiful harmonious city.
- c. These expressions are kingdom markers. When this is happening in the home and church and among your friends you know that the KOG is among you.
- d. The early church was characterized by unity & love; Solomon's kingdom was a proto-type of the KOG. He ruled over the largest kingdom Israel ever had. 1 Kings 4.24f says, "there was peace on all his borders...all of Judah & Israel lived in peace and safety."
- e. This doesn't mean there is an absence of conflict or hardship, but there's an underlying commitment to each other

V. An unbroken relationship with God

- a. Scripture: Gen.3.8–10; Rev.21.3
- b. God lives among His people. B/c of the cross, this is a reality for us too. When we take Him at His word or sense His presence in or around us this too is a Kingdom marker.
- c. Example: Experience His presence during worship; this is sign that the King & His kingdom are among us. During dry

seasons, I trust His word that states His Spirit is in me and thus His kingdom is there.

d.

VI. A Healthy Environment

a. Scripture: Gen.1–2, Rev.21.1

b. Nature flourishes; everything expresses the full glory of God.

c. By taking care of the environment, enjoying nature and gardening we are bringing the reign of the King into the natural order. It's more than protecting or enhancing nature for its own sake, but more importantly it's tending the environment so the King's dominion can be enjoyed and more clearly seen.

Conclusion:

Nelda Duarte, Delores Key, George Lunsford, and Lawrence Martin are in Heaven living under the Kingdom reign of God. We don't have to wait to get there before we can see the Kingdom among us.

By living in the authority God has given in us, having fruitful lives, experiencing dominion over sin & shame, walking in unity & unconditional love, fellowshiping with the Lord because of our unbroken relationship with Him and participating in nature's restoration, we see these markers that the KOG is around and in us.