

## The Kingdom of God, pt.8, 8.26.07

### The Kingdom of God and the Medical Community

- I. The Origin of Sickness
  - a. Sickness was not a part of God's past plan in the Garden; His future plan in Heaven; or His current plan on earth.
  - b. Anything that looks like stealing, killing & destroying isn't from God – John 10.10.
  - c. God cannot give away what he does not have. Sickness isn't a part of his nature.
    - i. Satan has a legal right to inflict sickness when we're living in sin.
    - ii. Also, being in a sin soaked environment we are prone to sickness. Sickness is a reality common to us all b/c we're in a broken world.
  - d. Sickness of any sort is never to be embraced as a gift from God or the will of God.
    - i. If sickness is a gift from God or the will of God, then we should rejoice whenever a person gets sick...we should encourage the person not to seek medical attention so they can really glorify God even more.
    - ii. If sickness is the will of God, then we can expect to get to heaven and see a bunch of sick people praising God. It's ridiculous to believe such a thing and we should pray, "on earth as it is in Heaven."
  - e. **Sickness isn't the gift; the gift is God's grace, strength & power to walk through the sickness.** If we didn't have his grace we wouldn't be able to stand!
- II. Healing in the Kingdom of God
  - a. Healing is a part of the gospel message – the word salvation.
  - b. Healing is a clear revelation of God's Kingdom – Matt.8 – 9.  
The KOG is simply Jesus getting his way and in these passage Jesus is getting his way.
  - c. It's a part of the Great Commission – Matt.28.19–20; 10.7–8.

**d. Healing is centered in the nature of God – Ex.15.26.**

e. Healing is in the atonement – Matt.8.16–17.

III. The Gen.1.28 Mandate

a. “reign/rule” & “govern/subdue” – have dominion; man’s mastery over animate & inanimate creation. We are to harness these things for the purposes of the King so they fulfill the purpose for their existence. NOT TO ABUSE IT!

b. I am to bring everything under His control.

c. I am to maximize every part of creation so that it’s living to its potential and purpose. (like saving the Bald Eagle)

d. We are to bring order to those things that are out of order, so that those things can live to their fullest potential.

i. Ex of mind & beliefs – I believed God is mad at me & not really for me, but then I harness my mind by reading the word, listening to other’s testimonies, read books, listen to teacher, etc & eventually my belief’s change & are brought into line with truth. The impact is that I look at life differently and I have a stronger relationship with God.

ii. Ex of crooked teeth – I have all kinds of cavities & crack & problems, so I go to a dentist & orthodontist & they begin subduing my teeth so they work as they were designed. They get into alignment & I have a better quality of life with less dental problems.

e. God has given all of us both the responsibility & authority to bring everything under His will from our spirits to our bodies.

f. Teachers, you are advancing the KOG by teaching children truth. All truth is God’s truth and truth is what liberates people to love God more & live a fuller life. You are subduing those wild & untamed minds (like Adam & Eve in the Garden) and you’re planting truth inside them, so that if the child stewards it right it will produce significant & positive change in her life.

g. Kevin Mabry business of cleaning parking lots. They are subduing trash so that the environment is clean.

#### IV. Gaining Dominion over Sickness

a. Seek the Healer – Go to Jesus. He is Plan A, B, & C. We always miss God's best when we place doctors or medicines before Jesus.

i. 1 John 5.13–15. Let's get it settled once & for all that healing is God's will. If you can come to that conclusion, you can walk in faith.

ii. Deal with any openings that have given the enemy legal access to our lives.

iii. Persistence without striving. Striving means you're trying to make something happen.

1. Indicators you are striving:

a. You worry that you haven't done enough; you keep looking to see if you've missed something. You need to look, but after you've done all "stand."

b. You begin questioning your faith level. Questioning your faith level is like questioning your prayer life: Do you pray enough? No & you never will and you'll never have enough faith because there's always more to be had. **Here's how you know if enough faith: Do you believe Jesus can heal you and are you asking him to do so? That's all that was required of those whom Jesus healed. They believed he could do it & they sought after him.**

c. You're always asking "why?" You are forever trying to figure it out. You will not receive the peace that passes understanding until you give up your demand to understand. His ways aren't ours and we know "in part."

d. You feel guilty if you aren't doing enough positive confessions or saying things just

right. Whenever you read something or hear something that you haven't done or are doing that you shouldn't that you think that's the reason healing hasn't manifested yet.

- e. Striving always leads to barrenness and strained relationships with God & others. Striving is the baggage of worry wrapped in the emotion of concern.

2. Indicators you aren't striving: **Rest & peace & joy.** You thank the Lord that He's heard your prayers and His will is being done. You can go about your day not fretting, but contented and grateful for God's goodness. It's obvious when you can go through the day blessing instead of guessing.

b. Receive God's grace of...

i. Healing.

- 1. Like the child that's been promised a wonderful gift, you stop asking and begin thanking.
- 2. It's God's will for me to be healed, and he payed for it on the cross. Thank you Lord! I am taking you at your Word...

ii. Strength as you wait.

- 1. 2 Cor.12.8f.
- 2. Phil.4.11-13

iii. Wisdom to know what to do.

- 1. James 1.5
- 2. Prov.2.3-6

c. Turn to those whom God has delegated authority over sickness.

- i. After you've prayed & others & there has been no breakthrough, then call upon the elders of the church - James 5.14-16.

1. Within our context, the staff, LT & deacons.
  2. Also, go to those who have the gift of healing
- ii. Medical Community
1. Medical/dental/psychiatric treatment is a way of getting dominion over sickness (Gen.1.28). The medical community brings sickness in line with KOG by subduing it.
  2. The KOG is within everyone (Lk.17.21). This doesn't mean that everyone is a follower of Christ, but that everyone has a sense when things are out of line and they need to be put in order.
  3. When Pharmacist Randy Moyer is dispensing a medicine, he is dispensing a tool that God is using to bring dominion over that sickness. It is a grace from God.
  4. Dentist Dr.Yarbrough & Elrod are bringing God's kingdom to bear so that those teeth work the way they were intended so the person can enjoy life the way God intended.
  5. Doctors, etc aren't in opposition to God's best. They are graces from God who has given mankind the ability to deal with the brokenness of our world.
  6. God has placed within us a sense when things aren't as they should be and a desire to see evil or brokenness vanquished. These two qualities are markers of this call to dominion God has placed within humanity. Therefore, we set to right the wrong & correct the problem.
  7. Summary Application - not a perfect example: Person in wolf costume. Drug dealer sets up next to your house what do you do? Get warm & friendly & thank God for you new neighbor (I'm going to learn so much about grace...). You do

everything within your power to see him evicted & convicted. You go on the offensive and know that truth will prevail. Pray, picket, confront, call the police, do surveillance & prosecute.

8. Illustration with wolf costume & “sickness” sign. Don’t embrace; don’t deny; look within; have people pray; call upon doctors; etc.
9. What I would do if I found out I had cancer – inner work, prayer from others & doctors reports.

- V. Living in the Tension (when things don’t happen like we want them to or in the way we desire)
  - a. The key is childlikeness – Matt.18.1–4, 19.13–15.
  - b. People of childlike faith can live in the tension. They realize by being entangled with all the “whys” and “what abouts” will not lead to liberty. What leads to liberty is child like trust in the goodness of God.
  - c. Illust – Child playing soccer with his friends who is laughing & enjoying it all, yet he’s in the middle of a dump with the signs of decay all around. He’s able to enjoy the moment with decay all around him. There are huge questions around him – why do I have to play in a dump & eat rotting food & others don’t – but he can’t focus there b/c there may not be an answer he can understand at this time, so he concentrates on the game, the day, the friends.