

INTRODUCTION: KINGDOM MINISTRY

1. INTRODUCTION

- A. When Jesus sent out of the twelve, he instructed them to heal the sick.
 - I. *He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:1-2 NKJV*
 - II. Healing is an integral part of the gospel and a powerful tool for demonstrating the reality of God's love.
 - III. We're going to look at the relationship between healing and the kingdom of God.
 - IV. Understanding of the kingdom of God facilitates experiencing the ministry of Jesus and gifts of the Spirit.
 - V. It also helps with prayer ministry in general and gives us insight into walking in power and authority.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- A. What is the kingdom? George Ladd (theologian) defined the kingdom of God as, "*the rule and reign of God.*"
 - I. This rule and reign is over sin, death, affliction, disease, oppression, and injustice.
 - II. This rule and reign is salvation, deliverance, provision, healing, freedom, righteousness, peace, and joy.
 - III. *But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matt 12:28 NKJV*
- B. The kingdom of God can also simply be defined as, 'Jesus is King'.
 - I. *He is Lord of lords and King of kings. Revelation 17:14b NKJV*
- C. Jesus was anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth.
 - I. This kingdom is eternal, ever increasing, and one that cannot be shaken.
 - II. *He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. Luke 1:33 NKJV*
 - III. *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. Isaiah 9:7 NKJV*
 - IV. *We are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken. Hebrew 12:28a NKJV*
- D. Jesus taught his disciples, "*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" **Luke 11:2 NKJV**
 - I. When praying, "Your kingdom come," we are praying for heaven on earth, this includes healing, provision, etc.
 - II. We are also making ourselves his subjects and that means we are surrendering to his will and plan.

3. THE CHARACTER OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The kingdom is about Jesus, and it must always be about Jesus.
 - I. The kingdom is therefore relational. To seek first the kingdom is to seek relationship with the King.
- B. As we are grafted into Jesus, his ministry pours out.
 - I. John Wimber shared a time God spoke to him, "*John, I have seen your ministry, would you like to see mine.*"
- C. The King defines the kingdom, and the character or quality of the kingdom is like Jesus.
- D. Scriptures says, "All creation groans and eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God."
 - I. The kingdom of God will continue to increase and fill the earth displaying Christ for all to see.
 - II. Creation itself is longing for God's glory, for God's people transformed into the image of Christ.
- E. Which brings us to the next point: the kingdom is Christlike, kenotic, and cruciform.
 - I. *A new government of love will be established in the venerable David tradition. A Ruler you can depend upon will head this government, a Ruler passionate for justice, a Ruler quick to set things right. Isaiah 16:5 MSG*
 - II. *In mercy (Checed) the throne will be established; and One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness. Isaiah 16:5 NKJV*
 - III. *Checed* means benevolence, goodness, mercy, love, acts of kindness.
 - IV. Christ's throne (reign, government) is established in lovingkindness, mercy, and goodness.
- F. Here's a mystery of the kingdom: Jesus is in control, but He doesn't control us.
 - I. **1 John 4:8** tells us that God is love and as such God's rule, reign, and leadership is of love.
 - II. Submitting to his government (Lordship) doesn't increase control but rather brings freedom.
 - III. *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 2 Cor 3:17 NKJV*
- G. The kingdom is also a kingdom of power and when it comes, it comes in power.
 - I. *For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. 1 Corinthians 4:20 NKJV*
 - II. *I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:6-7 NKJV*
- H. The kingdom also comes with peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and his Lordship brings peace.
 - I. *The kingdom of God is not...., but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17 NKJV*

4. THE EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE KINGDOM

- A. When Jesus taught about a Sower who went out to sow - **Matthew 4**
 - I. He shared how some seed fell by the wayside, some on stony places, some among thorns.
 - II. But other seed fell on good soil and yielded a crop. He explained how the seed is the word of God.
 - III. Consider how to farmers, the seed is precious, and seed would always be sown in good soil.
- B. This parable describes the extravagance of the kingdom – the extravagance of the love of God.
 - I. Note how the Sower scatters seed everywhere.
 - II. It is about a Father who can't help Himself out of His love for people from scattering seed everywhere.

5. THE KINGDOM IS FULL OF GRACE

- A. Jesus knew that people would be healed and liberated if they experienced the kingdom of the God.
- B. Jesus also understood that the kingdom is full of grace.
 - I. Jesus started his mission on earth with a proclamation – “The kingdom is at hand.”
 - II. *Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:14-15 NKJV*
 - III. At hand means it's coming is immediate, within reach, or so near that its immediacy touches the present.
 - IV. It does not mean so much as coming soon as it does mean breaking in right now.
 - V. In other words, the King is here, and he has brought his promised kingdom with Him.
 - VI. This was good news of God's love and his desire to intervene, heal, deliver, and change circumstances.
- C. The very declaration of the kingdom brings its reality, and it calls for an immediate response.
 - I. Jesus' announcement of the kingdom was accompanied with a call of repentance.
 - II. Repentance means to change your mind.
 - III. But notice how Jesus didn't say if you repent and believe you will see the kingdom.
 - IV. Note the order of Jesus announcement, “The kingdom of God is at hand, repent, and believe.”
 - V. The kingdom is full of grace and the kingdom's presence initiates repentance and not the other way around.
 - VI. When we understand that it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom, we are able to receive.

6. MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM

- A. When we pray the Lord's prayer, why do we pray, “Your kingdom come” if it is already here?
 - I. George Ladd coined the phrase, “*the kingdom is now and not yet.*”
 - II. The kingdom is experienced in the present, but it's fullness will be realized in the future.
- B. We are praying for the future kingdom (age to come) to manifest in the present (or overlap this age).
- C. We see this in Scripture: The kingdom has come. (The kingdom is within you. The kingdom has come upon you).
 - I. The kingdom is coming immediately. (The kingdom of God is at hand. The time is fulfilled).
 - II. The kingdom can be experienced now. (Wherever two or three are gathered in my name).
 - III. The kingdom is not here in its fullness and will come with Jesus' return.
 - IV. The kingdom will be delayed. (Tribulation, gospel preached to the world, bridegroom delayed.)
- D. Understanding the now and not yet of the kingdom will often keep us in a safe, healthy, and loving place.
 - I. We have tasted the kingdom, however there is more to come.
 - II. At times, the kingdom may seem insignificant, but it is always increasing and often multiplying.
- E. So where is the kingdom? In Scripture, we see it is at hand, near, upon and within you.
 - I. *And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ Luke 10:9 NKJV*
 - II. *Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.’ Luke 17:20-21 NKJV*
- F. I like the language of the kingdom because it conveys something that is coming and manifesting.
 - I. People often misunderstand the presence of God because they see him as being everywhere.
 - II. The manifest presence of God is his presence to bless.
 - III. When Moses asked to see God's glory (kâbôd), he was literally asking for his weighty presence.
- G. “*God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being, yet God acts differently in different places*”. When we pray “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”, we are asking God to come and do in this immediate time and space what He is continuously doing in heaven. We are asking for His manifest presence meaning God is at work right here, right now!” Wayne Grudem

7. RECEIVING AND RELEASING THE KINGDOM

- A. The provision has been paid for us to receive the kingdom. However, we must receive (appropriate) with faith.
 - I. The key to receiving the kingdom is intimacy (abiding), faith, hunger, surrender, hearing, and obedience.
- B. We also release the kingdom by our faith.
 - I. Sometimes faith is faithfulness to what he has called us to do. So faith is demonstrated through obedience.
 - II. The key to releasing the kingdom of God is authority, surrender, faith, proclamation, and obedience.
- C. We can often release the kingdom of God by invoking God's presence.
 - I. "Let your kingdom come!" Especially helpful in ministering to other people.
 - II. For people unfamiliar with the kingdom, we can invite God's love.
 - III. When we say, "Come Holy Spirit," we are asking for his manifest presence.
- D. The kingdom of God (including healing, gifts) can clearly be given away to others:
 - I. Peter said, "*Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.*" **Acts 3:6 NKJV**
- E. Several scriptures show the transferability of the Holy Spirit with laying of hands.
 - I. Peter and John in Samaria when they heard the Holy Spirit had not "fallen on" them yet.
 - *Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.* **Acts 8:17 NKJV**
 - II. *I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.* **2 Tim 1:6 NKJV**
 - III. *They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.* **Mark 16:18 NKJV**
- F. If you take a moment, you'll quickly discover how transferable God's manifest presence really is.

8. THE DEMONIC REALM

- A. As we get to know the kingdom, we soon discover the kingdom of God is in direct conflict with the demonic realm.
 - I. The good news is that the King has dominion over the demonic realm.
 - II. Jesus came to rescue people from the influence and works of Satan on their lives.
 - III. When he extends the rule and reign of God, he destroys the works of darkness.
 - IV. *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* **1 John 3:8 NKJV**
- B. Where does sickness come from?
 - I. *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* **John 10:10 NKJV**
 - II. *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.* **Acts 10:38 NKJV**
 - III. Here we see that the demonic realm is the source of sickness, pain, oppression, and despair.
- C. The demonic realm is defeated and only has power through the permission we give it through our own rebellion.
 - I. The devil is at work to establish his counter-kingdom on the earth and is always a squatter on God's property.
 - II. But "*The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.*" **Psalms 24:1 NKJV**
 - III. Every healing and every encounter is about taking back from the enemy what belongs to God.
- D. Justice is making wrong thing right. Jesus rejoices to establishing justice and destroying the works of darkness.
 - I. Knowing the kingdom, we don't accept unjust circumstances, we know there is a better way.

9. THE KINGDOM AND HEALING

- A. Healing is integral and regular part of the Gospel of the kingdom message preached by Jesus.
- B. The kingdom is not just an idea or a concept, it comes with new possibilities and tangible signs.
 - I. When the heaven touches people causing sickness to disappear, it's a sign that God's kingdom is in our midst.
 - II. This is the gospel that Jesus preached, demonstrated, and entrusted to us.
- C. Healing is much more than sickness or pain leaving a body, it's about the kingdom breaking in.
 - I. When the kingdom comes, the spiritual atmosphere changes and with it the possibilities.
 - II. Expectations change and with that there is an increase in kingdom activity.
 - III. Jesus did not instruct us to heal sickness and pain. He instructed us to heal people.
 - IV. Lives are changed when people are healed.
 - V. When we understand the kingdom has broken through, we realize God has come to rescue whole lives.
- D. The lives of those who are used to release the kingdom are also changed forever.
 - I. Healing is not only an expression of God's compassion; it is a sign that he is actively at work.
 - II. Healing awakens a new awareness and hunger for God for those who witness it.

10. REFERENCES

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