

## The Kingdom: God's Top Priority

Think of this year as a year of training. Become as student this year. This is what a disciple is. A person who follows, learns, and lives according to the knowledge they have received.

*We are smarter but not wiser; we live longer but not healthier; we have more but enjoy less; we can go to the moon, but we cannot go home to a good family; we have access to more information but know less about life. Tragically, we protect whales, but kill our children; we improve the quality of our food but produce less healthy strains for our consumption; we have more religion but less love; and we blame others for our choices, as we look to ourselves for solutions to the problems we create.*

**IT IS TIME TO KNOW OUR TRUE PURPOSE; WHY WE EXIST AND STRIVE FOR IT!**

### **THE KINGDOM: God's Top Priority**

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Jesus was very specific about what we should be preaching.

The first public statement made by Jesus when he began his ministry was this: Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Or it has arrived)

Repent – change your thinking; change the way you have been conditioned to think.

Changing your thinking is so important because, as a man thinketh in his heart so is he! (Proverb 23:7 KJV). If the thinking doesn't change then the man doesn't change.

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#### **God's Original Plan for Mankind**

- 1) God's original plan was to extend His heavenly Kingdom on earth through mankind.
- 2) God's purpose was to establish a family of sons not servants (or subjects or slaves).
- 3) God's purpose was to have relationship and not religion.

#### **God's Top Priority**

- 1) God's original plan was to extend His heavenly Kingdom on earth through mankind.

Luke 12:31,32 “seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. **32** “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

a) What is a Kingdom?

- i) A Kingdom is what a King has dominion over.
- ii) It is His domain ---- A King’s Domain
- iii) So, it was God’s original plan to extend His domain on the earth through his human offspring. The unseen kingdom was to be put in the spirit of his seen representatives. (2 Cor. 4:18 “... we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal”)

Adam didn’t fall from heaven, he fell from dominion!

Jesus came to restore what Adam lost through his disobedience. (2<sup>nd</sup> Adam)

b) The Dominion Mandate: what it is and what it is not.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

v. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**Dominion:** means to rule. God created man to extend his dominion on the earth.

i) What it is not.

This mandate is not this ridiculous idea that if man gets close enough to God they will become fantasy Marvel comic book characters on the earth to irradiate world hunger; exercise authority over the weather and the atmosphere and empty out all the hospitals on the earth.

ii) What it is.

What it is can be seen and understood in the words and actions of Jesus.

(1) Jesus didn’t change the weather patterns. He didn’t give us world peace by overthrowing Caesar. He didn’t rid the world of all sickness and disease. Neither did he put an end to world hunger and poverty. In fact, Jesus said, the poor you will have with you always.

(2) What he did do, was everything the Father wanted Him to do. He extended the Father's heavenly plan to the earth with extreme obedience and authority.

- (a) He exercised dominion over his flesh.
- (b) He exercised dominion over Satan himself.
- (c) He exercised dominion over disease, the demonic, and even death itself.

He did this by discerning what the Father was doing in heaven and accomplishing it on the earth.

In the book of John we see Jesus healing, delivering, raising the dead, someone asked how are you doing these things. Jesus said, "my Father is always working..." John 5.17 see verse 19, the son only does what He sees the Father doing.

c) **The Dominion Mandate is the call of God to rule over the dictates of our flesh, our physical life and the world through the transference of Kingdom Authority which has been given to us through Jesus Christ.**

i) Nothing on earth, and nothing that happens on our earth should dominate your life!

(1) Fear should not rule your life.

(2) A creeping weed should not rule your life.

(3) Sex should not rule your life.

Paul said, my body will "not be dominated by anything 1 Cor 6:12 "-“Not food and not sexual immorality!”

1 Cor 6:19,20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

**Don't put sexual intimacy first your life. Seek the Kingdom and His Righteousness and then all things will be added Righteously unto you in God's time and in God's plan!**

Adam's fall was devastating: Adam didn't lose heaven he lost but a kingdom on earth.

He committed high treason and lost control of his rulership responsibilities on earth.

Adam surrendered the management contract on earth to Satan.

When Adam sinned God not only lost sons but he also lost a kingdom on earth. Jesus came to earth to win back the Kingdom!

2) God's purpose was to establish a family of sons not servants (not subjects not slaves).

Jesus explained the gospel of the Kingdom in his famous story found in Luke 15. The Prodigal Son

a) We have a servant's mentality just like lost son.

This lost boy had lost his identity... His mentality was so damaged by the pig pen that he could not believe that he could be a son again. So he just wanted to be a servant!

Jesus said, no longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends... we are family! for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

b) We have been restored to the family.

Jesus is our Savior and Lord by the necessity of redemption. But He is more than that. He is our brother according to our spiritual genealogy.

i) We delight in the revelation of him as Savior and Lord but have we come into the full revelation of our identity with him in the FAMILY!

ii) He is your Big Brother! (this is not disrespectful, this is identity!)

He calls us brothers! Hebrews 2:10,11 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. **11** For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers.

iii) I have some good news for you! If you have come home to the father your days of slavery are over! You are not only in the house you own the house!

John 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. **35** The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

c) Sons can change the world, slaves cannot do anything!

3) God's purpose was to have relationship and not religion.

a) God did not want to have religious people who were always searching for and creating for themselves a manmade custom made reason for existence.

- b) This is why the gospel of the Kingdom is good news because it is a message that has been sent out to all of his lost sons that they don't have to be enslaved or live like a servant, they can be Sons!
- c) He is ready to impart the Spirit of Sonship in your heart!
- d) He wants Relationship with many sons! Not religion with a multitude of slaves.

**Finish:** Romans 8:15-17 NIV

**15** The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba, Father.*"

**16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

**17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...