



- We live in the **conflict** of two kingdoms.

...and always thankful to the Father who has made us fit to share all the wonderful things that belong to those who live in the Kingdom of light. For he has rescued us out of the darkness and gloom of Satan's kingdom and brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son... Colossians 1:12-13

For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. Ephesians 6:12 (TLB)

- We need to understand the kingdom of God so we live as **citizens** of His kingdom in this conflict.

...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.... Matthew 6:10 (NIV)

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 4:17

After his suffering... He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure a man discovered in a field. In his excitement, he sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field—and get the treasure, too! Matthew 13:44

You can do without **everything** to acquire this one thing.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

- The way we pursue the kingdom of God is to pursue the **King** of the kingdom.

...in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. 1 Peter 3:15

On his robe and thigh was written this title: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Revelation 19:16

What the Kingdom of God is:

- The Kingdom of God is the **Rule** and **Reign** of God.

- The Kingdom of God is a **present realm** where God's authority and blessings dwell.

...the kingdom of God is within you. Luke 17:21

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power. 1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT)

- The Kingdom of God is a **future realm** where the fullness of the King's glory dwells. (*Heaven*)

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:4 (NLT)

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:27 (NIV)

Why we need a kingdom mindset:

- A Kingdom mindset sets our **passions** on what's eternal not what's temporal. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. Colossians 3:2-4

- A Kingdom mindset keeps us focused on **Christ** within us rather than the chaos around us.

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26:3

- A Kingdom mindset establishes a faith in God, not **politicians**.

They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. Psalm 112:7

- A kingdom mindset keeps us **servicing** the King of the kingdom.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" Matthew 25:34-40

We encouraged you, we comforted you, and we kept urging you to live the kind of life that pleases God, who calls you to share in his own Kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:12

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TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- While the chaos in this world might be obvious, do you think people recognize this as the conflict of two kingdoms?
- What do you think it means to live as a citizen of God's kingdom in the conflict with Satan's kingdom?
- How valuable is God's Kingdom to you?
- Read Matthew 13:44; What is it about that scripture that challenges you?
- Discuss the three points under the sub-heading "What the Kingdom of God is" and what they mean in our lives as Christians.
- How does a Kingdom mindset set our passions on what is eternal? (What does that mean to you?)
- How does focusing on Christ, rather than the chaos, help us have a Kingdom mindset?
- When we put our faith in God, does that mean we don't stand against policies against God's standard? How we stand is important; what does that look like to you?
- How does serving others give us a kingdom mindset?

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Today's Talk..



Understanding The Kingdom

Sunday, September 3rd, 2023

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