



For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, Romans 14:17 (NIV)

- The kingdom of God is the **rule** of Christ in my life.

A citizen of the kingdom (*disciple*) is called to:

- **Follow** Jesus.
- **Leave behind** the old life.
- A **task** in the kingdom of heaven.
- As a citizen of His kingdom, I am called to **expand** His kingdom.

We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20 (TLB)

A man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!" Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that my house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'" Luke 14:15-24 (NLT)

...he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' Luke 14:17 (NLT)

- When the **distractions** in life become the **priorities** of our life, we miss the kingdom.

But Jesus told him, "Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:62 (TLB)

Life doesn't begin until our **excuses** end.

His master said....urge anyone you find to come, so that my house will be full. Luke 14:23 (NLT)

- Everyone is **welcome**, but not everyone will attend.

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

- God's desire to fill heaven includes **you**.

- Our surrender to the King compels us to **participate** with the King.

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And **God has given us this task** of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them... 2 Corinthians 5:18-19a (NLT)

- God's plan for you will reflect God's **love in you**.

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when **we plead**, "Come back to God!" 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NLT)

- You are a **representative** of the King.

...And **God has given us this task** of reconciling people to him. 2 Corinthians 5:18 (NLT)

Carrying out the call of reconciliation:

- Personally accept the **task** given to you.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" Romans 10:13-15 (NLT)

- Invest in **praying** for people disconnected from God.

My friends, how I wish with all my heart that my own people might be saved! How I pray to God for them! Romans 10:1 (TEV)

Don't forget to pray for us, **that God will open doors** for telling the mystery of Christ, even while I'm locked up in this jail. Pray that **every time I open my mouth I'll be able to make Christ plain as day to them**. Colossians 4:2-4 (MSG)

- Spend **time** with people and their **excuse**.

The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" So the people came streaming from the village to see him. John 4:28-30 (NLT)

- **Invite** people to come with you.

Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and **compel** them to come in, so that my house will be full. Luke 14:23 (NIV)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. Matthew 9:9-10 (NLT)



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?
- What does the point mean to you: When the distractions in life become the priorities of our life, we miss the kingdom?
- When you think about the task of expanding the kingdom, what are some thoughts you wrestle with?
- Do you agree that life doesn't begin until our excuses end? Explain.
- What is the hardest part about accepting the task given to you?
- Why is it important to spend time with people and their excuses?
- What keeps you from inviting people to come with you?

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This is for the "Quest After Hours" event Sunday, Oct. 15th



Today's Talk..



The Courage to Invite Others

Sunday, September 24th, 2023

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