

Kingdom Mentality

1. Last week I attempted to...open our minds...to some of the differences between happiness and joy
 - a. I used the act of sharing...sacrificing...serving...proclaiming the gospel...and obedience to the Lord as examples
 - b. Each of these actions...involves an act of trusting God...or growing in faith...by doing the opposite of what the world says to do
 - c. I attempted to explain some of the many benefits of true Joy...and how it can change our hearts
 - d. Finding joy in the Lord...has much to do with the condition of our heart
 - e. If we don't have much joy in our life...we have the power to change our hearts by trusting what the word of God tells us to do
 - f. When we exercise our faith...we are doing nothing more than...simply learning to trust the King...by doing kingdom activities
 - g. Faith is like a mustard seed...starts small...but when we are truly walking with Jesus...we should be growing in our faith
 - h. So our faith starts small...starting at salvation...sadly this is where many Christians stop there walk with Christ...when it is only the beginning
 - i. When we form a relationship with the Lord...it is so we can grow in faith...and we learn to make Jesus our King

- j. If we are willing to soften our hearts...trust that the Lord has my best interest in mind...then we grow from a getting of salvation person only
- k. To servant of the King...where the kingdom of God becomes our focus
- l. What we have seen for the first church in acts 2 do so far...the church received the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- m. Peter preached...and 3000 came to faith...next they formed the first church based on the forgiveness of sin...baptism...and receiving the Holy Spirit
- n. They came together in unity...and they are beginning to establish...the kingdom of God
- o. Jesus didn't teach His disciples about the kingdom of salvation...but rather the kingdom of God...where Jesus becomes our King
- p. The kingdom mentality...is a kingdom...where Christ rules...where you trust the King enough...to let Him rule your life
- q. Now the hard part of this kingdom living...is surrendering to the King
- r. First by learning to obey the King...and then leaving the results up to Him
- s. Because we know that King Jesus...is the governing influence over His territory...after all...He created every detail of the earth
- t. Where His faithful subjects... are impacting the world...with His will...and His purpose...in spite of what has happened...or is happening to you
- u. The kingdom of God is a culture...and a society of faithful believers...that are reflecting the King's nature...His values...and His morals
- v. The kingdom of God...has subjects...who are completely committed to the King...and do the will of the King...so to affect the kingdom

- w. And the enemy of God will use everything he can to stop us...he will use others to hurt you...so that you won't want to follow the king any more...
- x. The king doesn't want us to stop living in His kingdom...but to rather forgive...love...and continue...because if you stop
- y. Satan wins...your heart becomes hard...your faith fades...you lose your joy...and you become a tree that doesn't produce fruit
- z. Many of the churches today...have stopped teaching at salvation only...because kingdom living is really hard
- aa. The salvation only mentality...doesn't include...true remorse for sin...true repentance...a healthy fear of the Lord...or even a love for the King
- bb. The salvation only mentality...is a church has no power...because it has no King...they will however mention the name of Jesus from time to time...
- cc. But for the most part...they are their own king...creating their own idea of salvation...they are building their own kingdom...
- dd. Which is nothing more than the spirit of anti-Christ
- ee. These kingless churches are powerless...they are lacking the Holy Spirit guiding them...because they are still the king of their hearts
- ff. Today we are going to study the first miracle of the first church
- gg. What this miracle is...is the King...using His subjects...to advance His kingdom...with a simple act of compassion

2. Acts 3:1 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service.

- a. Notice they are still going to the temple to take part of the 3 o'clock prayer service...
3. Slide...They were people of prayer
 - a. The disciples are still Jews...they still are going to the temple to pray
 - b. It was customary for Jews to pray 3 times a day...morning...noon...evening
4. Acts 3:2 As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple.
 - a. This man was lame from birth...so it was a congenital birth defect
 - b. Every day...this man was put beside this same gate...called the beautiful gate...so He could beg for money from those entering the temple
 - c. This is all we are told about this man...somebody would put this man in front of the beautiful gate to beg
 - d. Josephus...the Jewish historian...wrote about this gate
 - e. This gate was 75 feet tall...and it was made out of Corinthian brass
 - f. Josephus describes this gate...to be more beautiful than the gold things or silver things that were part of the temple
 - g. This gate had 15 steps leading up to the court where the men would meet...which was separated from the court of the women...
 - h. This is where they would put this man every day to beg
 - i. This man is dependent upon others...to move him to the gate each day...with no real purpose in life other than to be a beggar

- j. I would like for us to consider something...the scripture tells us...that Jesus visited this temple many times
 - k. Realize that Jesus would have gone through these gates to teach at the temple in Solomons porch
 - l. And verse 2 says...everyday this man was set at this gate...which means Jesus would have walked by him...and yet...Jesus didn't heal him
 - m. The reason I bring this up...is because there are times when Jesus healed all who came to Him...and times He didn't
 - n. Which shows us...that Jesus is sovereign...let's not forget...Jesus also healed in so many different ways...and in different circumstances
 - o. He only healed one man at the pool of Bethesda...while many others were there to get healings
 - p. My point is...healing is a sovereign work of God...and God is sovereign in His timing...and this is God's timing for this beggar to be healed
5. John 9:1-3, 1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" 3 "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.
6. Slide...God can and will use man to show others the power of God
- a. That statement is going to be the focus of our teaching today
 - b. Now this healing in Acts 3 is going to have a purpose for the beggar...and is also going to have a purpose for advancement of the kingdom of God

- c. I wonder if Jesus walked by this crippled man...sitting at the beautiful gate...and thought...not yet...today is not the day for healing...but soon
 - d. I also want us to consider...that Peter and John visited this temple many times...and they would have seen this beggar many times also
 - e. Something else to consider...is when Jesus sent out the disciples 2 by 2...they were given the power to heal the sick and cast out demon's
 - f. In their report to Jesus...they were amazed that even the demons obeyed them when they used the name of Jesus
 - g. So they already have experienced the power to heal in Jesus name...but still...they walked by this man many times...until this day
7. Acts 3:3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.
- a. What this beggar asks for is money...realize this is all the scripture tells us
 - b. Did he know Jesus could heal him...did he ever consider...Jesus is the Messiah...or ever think...man...I wish I could walk
 - c. The Bible doesn't give us any insight to what this crippled man was thinking...what his hopes were...what his dreams were
 - d. So the best advice I ever got from Pastor Chuck Smith is...if the scripture is silent...then I also need to be silent...
 - e. In other words...don't add to the scripture
 - f. Here is what the scripture is telling us...the beggar is only looking for a few coins...period
8. Acts 3:4 Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!"

- a. Slide...Peter studied this man's situation
 - b. Slide...Peter establishes human eye contact, then Peter acts
 - c. When we look at each other...how do we view each other...what is going through our minds...as we make eye contact
 - d. Here is what the crippled man thinks
9. Acts 3:5 The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money.
- a. Here is what Peter sees
10. Acts 3:6-7 But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" 7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened.
- a. The beggar was looking for a few coins...but there was something was happening inside Peter
 - b. Again...the scripture doesn't tell us...what Peter was thinking...or what the Holy Spirit was telling him
 - c. All it tells us...is Peter didn't give him what he was looking for...instead... Peter offers this beggar a hand up
 - d. By sharing what he had...and look what Peter said...In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth
 - e. Peter describes Jesus as the Nazarene...so there could be no mistake who he was talking about...and who is the One responsible for the healing
 - f. The religious Jews used this title of Jesus...the Nazarene...to insult Jesus with this saying...can anything good come out of Nazareth

- g. When Jesus told people to get up and walk...they obeyed Jesus immediately...and they stood up and walked
- h. When Peter says get up and walk...he didn't move...he sat there...until... Peter pulled him up
- i. Luke...being a doctor...describes this event in the Greek language...using doctors' terms
- j. How when Peter pulled...it was then and only then...
- k. Did the bones and ligaments and the muscles that have never been used ...suddenly become strengthened
- l. But I can't help but wonder...what did this look like...did the man suddenly stand up when pulled by Peter
- m. Or did Peter pull him off his mat...then drag him a little and then as Peter was pulling him...the bones and muscles started to work
- n. I wonder what was going on in Peter's mind when the man did not get up
- o. When the man didn't move...did Peter do the typical Peter way of doing things...by grabbing the man and hoisting him up...saying
- p. Saying hey buddy...didn't you hear me...you are healed
- q. I wish the scripture would tell us what was going on in Peter's spirit...but again scripture is silent here
- r. So I want to focus on what the scripture is telling us
- s. There was personal interaction between one of Jesus's servants and a man who was helpless...and needed a hand up
- t. The beggar asked for money...but Peter created eye contact with him

11. Slide...Peter looked at the cripple differently than the world

- a. But Peter said...silver or gold I don't have...here is the key
- b. In the name of the King...Yes...the Lord of Lord's...the Word of God...the creator of everything...in the name of the King...get up and walk
- c. I believe what scripture is teaching us...is Jesus's servants are to get involved in others' lives...so we can teach them who our King is
- d. How much faith did this beggar have...we don't know...all he was looking for a hand out...and Peter gave him a hand up

12. Acts 3:8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

13. Slide...The King has set this man free which causes him to worship the King

- a. The scripture points out that this man is walking and leaping...of course he would be...he watched others do it...and now He can finally do the same
- b. The Greek word for Jumping or leaping...can also be described as abiding ...or coming into agreement...with what Peter said
- c. We are starting to see the bigger picture...Jesus used His subjects to advance the kingdom of God
- d. Now this man miracle...becomes a testimony of the King

14. Acts 3:9 All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God.

15. Slide...The response of the man is praising God, not praising Peter

- a. In Luke 17...Jesus heals 10 lepers...and only one comes back to thank Jesus...and praise Jesus as the Lord
- b. Jesus makes the comment...didn't I heal 10...where are the other 9

- c. The 9 only focused on the gift...and the one focused on the giver of the gift
- d. When we only focus on the gift of salvation only...we miss the giver of the gift...we can miss Jesus...and His kingdom
- e. Is salvation...healing in the name of Jesus...casting demons in the name of Jesus is part of the church...yes...
- f. But how often will this happen...not to often...but still happens
- g. But what about the human touch...the human contact...look at them in the eyes...reach out and help them up
- h. We can tell them why we are helping them...and hope they respond like the beggar
- i. When we look closer at the healing...Peter did pull the man's hand...but it was the cripple...bad word...the healed man...who did the standing up
- j. It was the healed man who leaped...it was the healed man who praised God...and it was the healed man who told others about Jesus
- k. Peter only gave him a pull...and the healed man did his part
- l. Once we realize...what the Lord has given us
- m. It should cause us to respond in thanksgiving and praise...worship...a changed heart...and a changed life...so we too can help others
- n. Not just leaping because I now am able...but leaping for joy...because the Lord saw me as worthy...valuable...important
- o. Then asking the Lord to be used...so His people to make a difference in the kingdom ... through a personal touch of another person of God

16. Acts 3:10-11, 10 When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! 11 They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

17. Slide...The healed man drew the astounded people to the disciples

- a. The reaction of the people...was they were absolutely astounded
- b. There was a rush to see...what happened...there was a new excitement in the very place where Jesus was teaching a few months ago
- c. The King still has a governing influence over his territory
- d. His faithful subjects... are impacting the world...with the kings will...and for His purpose
- e. Peter is going use this opportunity to preach Jesus crucified...which we will study again next week
- f. The kingdom of God is a culture...and a society that is reflecting the king's nature...his values...and His morals...through faith
- g. The kingdom of God...has subjects...who are committed to the king...and do the will of the king...in order to affect the kingdom
- h. This event was planned since the beginning of time...But all Peter knew was...he and John were walking together for evening prayer
- i. All the beggar was looking for was some coins
- j. And all God was looking for...was a pre-arranged meeting that involved His servant and a man in need
- k. And God used this opportunity to advance His kingdom

18. Acts 3:12 Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? 13 For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. 14 You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact! 16 "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.

- a. Remember where they are...they are standing in the temple courtyard in Jerusalem where not long ago Jesus had taught among the people
- b. Where they secretly arrested...convicted...and crucified Jesus
- c. Some of these same people were present now witnessing that the power of Jesus is now working through the disciples...or the church

- d. Peter let them have it with both barrels and basically said
- e. You delivered Jesus up...you denied Him...and you asked for a murderer to be released instead
- f. You killed the Prince of Life, but God raised Him from the dead and we are witnesses
- g. Peter reminded them that they had rejected Jesus when they said to Pilot...We have no king but Caesar!
- h. They had asked for a murderer to be released instead of Jesus when they said "Give us Barabbas." The father of the world or lies
- i. Peter is showing them how they lacked faith in Jesus
- j. And now...by faith in the name of Jesus...this man whom you see and know was made strong
- k. This is so simple but so true...faith in the name of Jesus Christ brings power to the church
- l. Any man or woman who has ever done anything substantial for Christ has done so only by faith in His name. The fleeting strength of man is nothing.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23. 17 "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. 18 But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. 19 Now repent of your sins and turn to

God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. 21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. 22 Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people. Listen carefully to everything he tells you.' 23 Then Moses said, 'Anyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from God's people.' 24 "Starting with Samuel, every prophet spoke about what is happening today. 25 You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants all the families on earth will be blessed.' 26 When God raised up his servant, Jesus, he sent him first to you people of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you back from your sinful ways."

24. Some things to realize about Peter's second sermon are first off it involves opportunity. Peter saw the opportunity to preach the gospel and it caused him to respond in verse 12. Peter then asks two questions in verse 12. First why are you surprised and why look at Peter and John. Peter redirects their attention to Jesus. The second thing to realize about Peter second sermon is it involves truth in verse 13-15. The third thing to realize about Peter's second sermon is that the message includes faith in verse 16. The fourth thing to realize about Peter's second sermon is that it involves hope in verses 17-18. The fifth thing to realize about Peter's second sermon is a pardon in verses 19-21. This involves the forgiveness of sin and the restoration of life. The sixth thing to realize about Peter's second sermon

is it also involves a warning in verses 22-24. There are two groups of people to who the warning of judgment is for, one being the believer and other the unbeliever. The seventh thing to realize about Peter's second sermon is that it involves a blessing in verses 25-26.