

Kingdom Life Lesson One
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"The Kingdom of God is like..."

Matthew 13:44-45

What do you think those verses mean?

BELIEVERS in Christ have been C_____ to live the KINGDOM LIFE.

1 Peter 2:9

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Our C_____ing is centered on God's desire to (R_____m M_____ind)

That REDEMPTION was accomplished because of what Jesus did for us as the PERFECT SACRIFICE...the (L_____) who was (S_____).

John 1:29

Jesus the Lamb of God

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Revelation 5:9

9 And they sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.

- How do WE as BELIEVERS figure into God's plan to RESTORE mankind?
- God's plan to RESTORE mankind always included our (participation) and (obedience).

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- What is a COVENANT? (Pr_____)
- God entered into covenants with two Old Testament men.
- Who were the two Old Testament men God made COVENANTS with?
- What did God promise them?

Genesis 12:1-3

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

2 Samuel 7:16

16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

- God made covenants with Abraham and David...
- Fast forward to the New Testament. After Jesus had been crucified, risen, and just before He ascended to Heaven He left us some instructions...what do we call that?

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- What are the ACTION VERBS in those verses? That's our TO DO LIST as BELIEVERS.
- Look at verse 19, find the words "a few of you"...okay, find the words "some of you".
- So, WHO is to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES and BAPTIZE and TEACH?
- AFTER Jesus ascended to Heaven the Holy Spirit showed up as He had told them.
- And then the VOICE OF GOD through the Holy Spirit gave them some further instructions and a promise. Anyone know where we find that in the Bible?

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Just as God made a covenant (PROMISE) to Abraham and David, He's made a COVENANT with every one of us who are BELIEVERS. It's in Acts 1:8.
- What did He PROMISE us...two things?

- What POSITION did He give EACH of us in that verse? You will be my...?
- We can be His WITNESSES when we live what we call THE KINGDOM LIFE.
- What does a WITNESS do? COMMUNICATES what we've EXPERIENCED.
- To be a WITNESS you have to have two kinds of CONNECTIONS.
- To EXPERIENCE GOD we have to be CONNECTED to Him.
- To WITNESS...or TELL about that experience, to whom must we be CONNECTED?

Let's look at some scripture about being CONNECTED to our Heavenly Father:

Psalm 1:2

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

Job 23:12

12 I have not departed from the commands of his lips;
I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.

- Look at the words "long for" or in the NIV "CRAVE".
- What's the difference between CRAVE and LIKE?
- If a Christian isn't growing many times it because we're MALNOURISHED!
- If you DELIGHT in something...if you CRAVE it...there will be NO DUST ON IT.
- "It's hard to digest." Cut it up, and CHEW SLOWLY.

Two thoughts I had...

"A worn out Bible is an indication of a growing Christian!"

"If a sword is without marks...you wonder if it's been in battle."

- We stay PERSONALLY CONNECTED with the Father by studying, meditating on, and OBEYING His Word.
- What's the other MAJOR way we stay PERSONALLY CONNECTED to the FATHER?

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Paul get's right to the point:

"pray without ceasing..."

- Illustration: Ignoring someone with whom you desire to have relationship.
- Sometimes I don't know what to say. Good news...God's Omniscience ("Abba" is enough!) and the Holy Spirit!
- We need to train ourselves to make PRAYER OUR DEFAULT not an afterthought.

- PRACTICE MAKES PRAYERFUL!

In living the KINGDOM LIFE... we not only CONNECT to the Father by His Word and Prayer...we also must CONNECT by SURRENDERING to His will.

He's given us our ORDERS on how to live (as He taught us in scripture) and what to do (BE MY WITNESSES)

Here's another CONNECTION to the Father. Look at Luke 9:23...

Luke 9:23

23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

It's not enough to study our Bible and Pray...It's about OBEDIENCE and SURRENDER.

- To be a WITNESS we have to be CONNECTED to our Heavenly Father so we have and EXPERIENCE to bear WITNESS to.
- To WHOM are we to be CONNECTED to bear that WITNESS? Look again at Acts 1:8...

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- What does it say about the GEOGRAPHY of that region?
- What is implied by those three places?
- We are to CONNECT and BEAR WITNESS to OUR NEIGHBORS and THE NATIONS
- How do we do that?
- First, all of us have different GIFTS, and next week we'll talk about that in depth.
- But, no matter what GIFTS you have as a Christian...there are couple of things ANY believer can do.

Matthew 10:42

42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

- What is that talking about? SERVING OTHERS. Anyone of any age can do that!
- And we're to do it in L_____ and CH_____LY.

Galatians 5:13

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

- What is ANOTHER way ANYONE can REACH OUT TO OTHERS?

Matthew 6:21

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- We have a modern term: "Skin in... _____ "

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

1 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 5 And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. 6 So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

- We CONNECT by GIVING.
- Another thing about WITNESSES. In COURT what does a WITNESS bring? EVIDENCE. How can we show EVIDENCE that we have been CHANGED by the power of the Holy Spirit? FRUIT!

Galatians 5:22-25

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,

They were winning people to Christ just based on their REPUTATION...the EVIDENCE...THE FRUIT in their lives...because they were IMITATORS of the Lord.

So, What's the TAKEAWAY?

- Some questions to think about THIS WEEK:
 - Do I study God's WORD regularly/daily...or am I malnourished?
 - Could I share a WONDERFUL TRUTH from scripture this week?
 - Do I pray for others...for the lost...for those hurting?
 - Am I serving? Am I giving?
 - When obedience is talked about, is there an area of my life that comes to mind?
 - Who do I need to INTENTIONALLY seek to influence for Christ nearby?
 - How can I do my part to REACH THE NATIONS?
- HELP! I'm not there...none of us get's 100 on the test...but as Paul said in

Philippians 3:12

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.