

“Kingdom Mandate”

I have been teaching about the Kingdom of God and what that means to us and for us. Sadly, Western thinking and some teaching within Churches have restricted and limited the Kingdom of God / Kingdom of Heaven to an ‘*after death destination*’.

It is not some territorial or geographical place, not a physical location ... such as the United Kingdom or the Kingdom of Tonga.

**The Kingdom of God is something we are to have within us and
thus function because of.**

The Kingdom of God has to be as central and as important to us as it is for Jesus. Our lives must orbit around the power, influence and authority of the Kingdom of God.

- My first message was titled: **“LIVING ON PURPOSE – JESUS PURPOSE”**

In this message I taught about the one thing that separates us as the Church from every successful Humanitarian Support Agency and I concluded that it had to be the **MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD** that sets us apart from the world.

MANIFEST: revealed, plainly apparent, displayed, bare, clear, distinct, evident, glaring, open, obvious, overt, palpable, unmistakable, undeniable, visible.

Many cannot see the difference between the Church and the ‘Caring’ World. I believe this is because sadly we have by and large neglected the Authority and Lordship of Jesus in our lives. Instead have limited ourselves to and continued in our reliance of our God-Given Gifts. (3G’s: Gold, Girls and Glory vs. God Given Gifts)

These gifts are not bad – they are given by God – but they have taken prominence and we tend to no longer ask or include God unless it all goes wrong or looks too difficult for our ‘gifts’ to cope with.

We are so used to functioning and reverting back to our God Given Gifts – that many become confused or even offended when HIS Glory shows up!

- My second message was titled: **“KINGDOM LIVING”**

In this I went back to very foundation of how Jesus has called us to live. The ‘Kingdom of God’ was the central message, theme and point of all of Jesus’ teaching. Over 100 times in the New Testament we read the term ‘The Kingdom of God’.

LUKE 4:43(NKJV)

“...but He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.”

To live in the manner of the ‘Kingdom of God’ means **the Rulership, Authority & Supremacy of Christ is invited, established and hosted**. There are examples in both the Old and New Testaments of people who **wanted the King but not his Lordship!**

We have been designed by God to ‘**carry His Presence**’ and it is when we carry His presence that it enables us to live in a way that we can overcome the generational conditioning of ignoring God and disqualifying ourselves from Kingdom Power.

- So today I am going to unpack our **‘KINGDOM MANDATE’**.

Here is a scary thought:

The Church is only one generation from extinction.

If I do not sow into, raise and build ‘the next’ – if WE do not sow into, nurture and build the ‘next’ - then we have **BOTH** failed. I taugth on the result of failing to do this in my first message:

JOSHUA 24:31(NLT)

Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the Leaders who outlived him—those who had personally experienced all that the Lord had done for Israel.

JUDGES 2:10-11 (MSG)

Then another generation grew up that didn’t know anything of God or the work he had done for Israel. The People of Israel did evil in God’s sight:

We have been given a Kingdom Mandate!

MARK 16:15 (NASB-upd)

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Why would God give us such a Mandate?

JOHN 3:16

God so loved the world that He gave ...

Our mandate is to take the same love that Jesus had for the World and go out into it and **‘Carry that life and Hope of Jesus Everywhere we go’!**

When we read the word ‘WORLD’ we need to understand what we are being commanded to do in this ‘Mission of Commission’.

WORLD:

- Aion = Generations
- Oikoumene = World, Geography
- Kosmos = Social Order, World Affairs, Every Sphere of Life

Mark 16 ... go into all the KOSMOS – infiltrate every sphere of society.

John 3:16 ... God so loved the KOSMOS – the whole of society, every sphere of Life.

We are told that we are not of the world (**John 15:19**), but we are to go into all the world. We are instructed not to be conformed to the world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (**Romans 12:2**).

Q. WHAT IS THE ‘WORLD – COSMOS’?

There are seven main ‘pillars’ or ‘elements’ of society or the COSMOS.

1. Family & Home
2. Church & Religion
3. Education
4. Business & Technology
5. Arts & Entertainment
6. Media (Local – International – Mass)
7. Government



GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

We have been given the Kingdom Mandate to carry the Manifest Presence of God into every sphere of society, areas of social order, world affairs.

COLOSSIANS 1:27

(NKJV) - To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

(NCV) - God decided to let his people know this rich and glorious secret which he has for all people. This secret is Christ himself, who is in you. He is our only hope for glory.

(MSG) - God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you; therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:

DANIEL = (God is Strong & my Judge)

- Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon attacked and besieged Jerusalem
- Young men kidnapped into service of the King
- Lived in the Courts of the King under the command of the Chief Eunuch
- Trained for three years in order to serve the King of Babylon

In his incarceration Daniel was forced to live in the 'gentile / heathen' world. He had no choice. This happened because God allowed it – (Ch1:2 'And the Lord gave Jehoiakim into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar').

As a Child of Israel he had to live amongst the Babylonians. For Daniel to live there this is what he had to do:

- Change his name (Beltshazzar = Beelzebub)
- Learn the culture
- Learn the language
- Learn the writing
- Change the way he dressed

- Change the colour of his hair and face (paint it to change its shade)
- Wear eye shadow
- Change his clothes
- He had to go into ‘PAGAN’ employment as the Chief of the Sorcerers, Magicians and Astrologers

Daniel influenced Government.

NB: Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank;

DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD!

DO NOT EAT OF THE DELICACIES OF THIS WORLD!

OR DRINK THE WINE WHICH IT DRINKS!

Daniel 1:8-16 We are not to eat of the food of the World,

Daniel 1:17 The enabling of God established.

We can read about another Bible Character – Joseph – who took on such a complete persona change as the Prime Minister of Egypt that his own brothers did not recognise him.

WARNING – WARNING – WARNING

The Kingdom Mandate the Apostle Paul worked in: **1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23**

Many have taken this whole mandate principle to heart but have not “kept” themselves safe or secure. They have done as the Israelites did over and over again and become so engrossed and included in the ‘world’ that instead of being:

‘in the world and not of it’ they are ‘of the world and in it’!

So how do we keep ourselves and those around us?

- Prayer
- Bible Reading & Meditation
- Praise & Worship
- Thanksgiving

- Confession
- Repentance
- Forgiveness
- Fasting

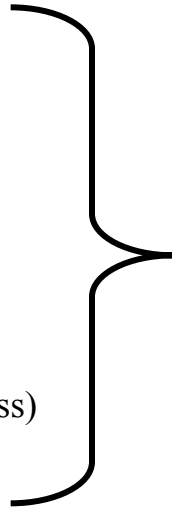
There are many who will try and tell you that unless you do ‘this or that’ you won’t be successful in the World.

Let’s look at our Bible Heroes again ... both Daniel and Joseph stayed true to God and both of them knew unsurpassed success!

So what does that mean for us?

It means that we are called to influence every sphere of life with the Life and Hope of Jesus. We are to be as Christ to a Christ-less people.

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GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

MATTHEW 5:16

Let your light so shine before men that they will see your good works and give your Father in Heaven Glory!

NEXT WEEK:

“KINGDOM POWER”

The Culture of the Miraculous