

Kingdom Agenda – An Introduction
Sunday, April 15, 2012
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Message

Today, I want to begin a brand new sermon series on the topic of the Kingdom of God and it will be an 8 Part Series that will carry us right up until the Christmas Season. I'm really excited about this series and about the transformation that can take place in each of our lives if we really take a hold of the work that the Holy Spirit wants to do in each of our lives. And I'm also excited about this series because of the transformational power that Scripture has in our lives (remember: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 -¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work). There is power in the word of God!!! And as we begin this new series on the Kingdom of God, each week we will listen to or share in the Lord's Prayer that speaks about this Kingdom. Let's read the Lord's Prayer together today

READ (Video): Matthew 6:9-13 – *“Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. ¹⁰Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.”*

Prayer

Today I want to share some thoughts with you regarding the Kingdom Agenda. Tony Evans, Pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, TX wrote a book a number of years ago that I will be referencing from time to time with this same title and in it he says this about the Kingdom Agenda. *“Everybody, it seems, has an agenda today. People have plans, programs, things they want to accomplish, and specific ways they want to accomplish them. God has an agenda too, something He wants to accomplish in His way. The bible calls this agenda, God's Kingdom. God's kingdom is all-embracing. It covers everything in the universe. It is the visible manifestation and application of the comprehensive rule of God in, over, and through every area of life. The reason so many of us believers are struggling is that we want God to bless our agenda rather than our fulfilling His agenda. We want God to “ok’ our plans rather than our fulfilling His plans. We want God to bring us glory, rather than our bringing Him glory.”* Tony Evans

And we can summarize all of this with one Big Idea. And this Big Idea will revolutionize and transform us if we hold on to it's truth and power: God only has one plan! (and it's not ours.....it's His.....it's His Kingdom Agenda!)

Over the coming months we are going to take a deeper look at this kingdom agenda and today I want to give you an overview of each of these weeks that I will be speaking.

7 Parts of Discovering the Kingdom Agenda

Part #1 – we'll be taking a look at Kingdom Authority [Daniel 7:14](#) – “He (Christ) was given *authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion(kingdom) is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his **kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.*”**

As we look at this idea of Kingdom authority, we will take a look at a few primary areas...

- We'll have to first understand that we operate, not on our own human authority, but under God's authority. And God's authority is primarily expressed to us through God's Word...scripture.
- And we're going to take a look at how this Biblical Authority, our foundation and blueprint by which all of life is to be lived, plays out in our everyday living.
- And so we're going to look at this biblical authority and how it functions and relates to ourselves as individuals, how it functions and relates to the family, how it functions and relates to the church, and how it functions and relates to government.

Here's the reason why we need to take a deeper look at Kingdom Authority. **ILL.** Let's do a little exercise...for those of you with a pen or pencil, flip your bulletin or notes over and draw a straight line right down the middle. Do any of you have a perfectly straight line? Probably not. Probably most of you have a slight curve, or crooked part somewhere in that line. But if we had rulers here today, we could probably do quite well drawing a straightline, couldn't we? The reason is simple.....it's because we would have a guideline.....and the same is true for our lives. If we try to do life on our own, under our own authority, it's going to be crooked. But if we live under, and according to, God's authority, His guidelines.....we'll have a much better chance of living without crooked lines.

Part #2 - we'll be taking a look at what it means to Seek First The Kingdom . Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”. I like how the New Living Translation states this verse..... *And he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.* *Matthew 6:33 (NLT)*

Pastor Greg Laurie tells a story and shares a thought for us today.....

III. “A man was out driving in the country during a heavy rainstorm when he came across an old farmer who was surveying the ruins of his barn. He pulled over and to ask the farmer what happened. "Roof fell in," the farmer replied. "What happened with it? Why did it fall in?" asked the stranger. "It leaked so long, it just finally rotted through," the farmer said. "Why in the world didn't you fix it before it rotted through?" "Well, sir," said the farmer, "I just never did

seem to get around to it. When the weather was good, there wasn't a need for it. And when it rained, it was just too wet to work on."

Isn't it amazing that when you want to do something, you find the time, no matter how busy you are? But when someone asks you to do something you don't want to do, suddenly there is just no room in the schedule.

This can happen when it comes to the Christian life as well. If we are serving God only when it's convenient, then we are settling for second-best. If we only make time for the things of God when something better doesn't come along first, then we are missing out on what God wants to do in our lives. How much better it is to make time for the things of God and to put the things of God above everything else. How much better it is to get your priorities right. Instead of making excuses, make time for the Lord. It is not only the simple way to live, but also the best way."

We'll be taking a look at the necessary priorities we have to have in order to fully participate in and fully engage in the Kingdom of God. And I almost guarantee that this is our toughest challenge as we're moving along in our spiritual journey.

Part #3 - we'll be taking a look at Who is the Greatest in the Kingdom? In Matthew 18:1-9, The disciples had come to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And Jesus kind of laid it right out there for them and ²He called a little child and had him stand among them. ³And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "

I'm not really sure that we should ever be concerned with who will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Because as soon as we do that, self-righteousness and pride, and arrogance take over and bumps the characteristic of humility right out of us.

Part #4 – We'll be taking a look at the Kingdom Life and what it means to live a Spirit-filled life! We'll be taking a look at Galatians 5:16-26 – and our key verses will be 22-25. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit (the fruit of living a spirit filled life) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." We're going to talk about what it means to live a holy and sanctified life. A life that is pure, and a life that is living above reproach. A Life that is.....free. Do you want freedom in life? Do you want to live above reproach and live a life of purity before God and man? This is the week that we're going to talk about it!

Part # 5 – we'll be talking about Kingdom Impact. We'll be looking at the idea of servant evangelism. We'll be looking at the idea of what it means to do Kingdom work and what it means to really make an impact in the lives of people who desperately need Jesus!! The reality for us is this.....we can easily fill up our church calendar with activity. We can easily have multiple programs that fill up the church calendar each and every day of the year!!!! But can I tell you something.....in the things I read, in the circles I'm in, with the experiences that I've had as a pastor and leader in the life of the church, activity is not making a kingdom impact!!! Kingdom Impact isn't about program!!!! Kingdom Impact isn't about activities on a calendar!!!! Kingdom impact is about lifestyle!!!!!! It's about being the church, not just coming to church. It's about using your time, your talents, and your treasures to make a difference. Let me offer you a challenge today? Friends, God has a lot of work for us to do. Some of that work is inside the four walls of the church, and some of that work is outside the four walls. But here's the thing we have to understand.....if we're going to make a Kingdom Impact, it's going to require each of us to participate in some level of the ministry. Each of us like Jesus, as he said to His Father in John 17:4 have a work, that God gives to us, that we need to complete.

Part # 6 –we'll be talking about the Keys of the Kingdom – This is a great conversation between Jesus and Peter and it's the passage where Jesus tells peter that He will build the church and the gates of hell will not prevail!!!!!! There are some keys of the kingdom that we need to know about and secure so that we too can be a part of a prevailing kingdom of God. (Matthew 16:19) ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be ^[a] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be ^[b] loosed in heaven."

And lastly,

Part # 7 – we'll be talking about our Kingdom Inheritance - I'll be walking us through a number of different passages that speak to us about how we can inherit the kingdom of God!

And friends, I'm telling you today that if at all possible, don't miss one week of this series. Part of our vision for this year has been to become more spiritually aware of God's presence in our lives, and I fully believe that this series will help us move more quickly toward Christ in our spiritual journey.

God wants to do something in your life, in our church, and in our community, and our hope and prayer, as we read in the very beginning needs to be that His kingdom will come and that His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Let's Pray