

CrossRoads Baptist Church
January 20 & 27, 2008 10:00 a.m.
Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17, 23
Core Values #3

“The Kingdom of God”

When we talking about the core values of our church and what we believe a person who was to be a part of our church for ten years should look like after that period of time. In light of that, its all about following Jesus and if we are a follower of Jesus, then we are going to be concerned about the Kingdom of God. For clarity, the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are the same.

I. Proclamation of the Kingdom

When we open the Gospels it begins with the proclamation that the Kingdom is here. It is knocking at the door, it is in the hand. It is imminent. It is here!!

II. Person of the Kingdom

To have a kingdom, you must have a King. Matthew shows us the King of this Kingdom.

Matthew 1 presents Him as King by His birth: He is in the line of King David, the greatest king of Israel’s history.
Matthew 2 presents Him as King by the circumstances surrounding His birth: magi from the East came to worship and the current reigning King Herod was jealous to the place of murder.
Matthew 3 presents Him as King by God sending forth a herald to announce His arrival. John the Baptist was a “voice” to announce “The Kingdom is here.” And he was to prepare the road for the King’s coming to make it easier for Him to arrive.

Jesus came in a time of Roman oppression announcing that the ultimate authority is not Caesar but the Creator.

He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

I Timothy 6:15 “Which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Revelation 19:16 “And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

III. Preparation for the Kingdom

In order to receive this King, you must repent. You must have a change of mind that the current king you are following is a loser, his principles and laws are not producing a quality and quantity of life that you wish to have for yourself or your family; and you must turn your allegiance from him to the true King.

You must repent of sin. This kingdom is an internal kingdom. You can’t live anyway you want to live in this kingdom and it does not begin with a change of geography, but a change of heart. So he deals with your sin.

You must repent – have a change of heart, have a change of mind, purpose, direction, will, to turn around. It is more than just feeling sorrow for your sin, but it is a forsaking of your sin.

And it didn’t matter who you were – even children of Abraham (Matthew 3:9-12). Everyone must be converted to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

IV. Priority of the Kingdom

Matthew 6:33 “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Basileia is the Greek word for kingdom. It is used 140 times in the New Testament and 109 of those are in the gospels. *Ecclesia* is the Greek word for the church. It is used 111 times in the New Testament and only three times in the gospels.

If we are going to be followers of Jesus, we must be vitally concerned and see as a priority the kingdom of God.

George Dana Boardman in his book published in 1899 said, “Kingdom of God is the goal of Christianity, God’s end; the church is the method of Christianity, God’s means.”

V. Purpose of the Kingdom

What is the purpose of any kingdom? To rule. The purpose of God’s Kingdom is to restore the practical rule of God in His world.

Matthew 6:10 “Thy kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.”

VI. Principles of the Kingdom

Every civilized nation has a system of laws. Jesus came and gave us a system of laws. Satan wants you to believe they are restrictive and damaging. But Satan is a liar ever since he tried that in the Garden.

Bill Gothard says, “Kingdom law reveals the wisdom of God in making each citizen healthy, prosperous, and successful.”

Jesus taught such principles as:

- If you have hate in your heart for your brother you are guilty of murder.
- If you have lust in your heart for another woman you are guilty of adultery.
- You are to love your enemies and bless them.
- You are not to worry about anything or judge one another.
- You are turn your other cheek when they strike you on one cheek.
- You are to volunteer to walk the second mile after being forced to walk the first mile.
- This kingdom will be characterized by servant hood not dictators.

- To find life, you must lose it.
- To receive, you must give.

VII. Power of the Kingdom

Matthew 28: 18 “Jesus said, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’”

Matthew 10:7-8 “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

The power of His kingdom is not bullets and missiles, but prayer and spiritual virtues.

II Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,…”

VIII. Presence of the Kingdom

It is here. The present kingdom is within us. Seeking it involves giving Christ complete jurisdiction over our hearts and lives.

Luke 17:21 “..nor will they say, ‘See here! Or See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

But Jesus did teach us that we are to penetrate society like salt and we are to provide this society guidance of light like a city set on a hill.

We don’t run from the culture but neither do we embrace the culture, but we confront it and seek to change it through the power of God.

But there is an aspect of a future kingdom as well. But every time the disciples began talking about this kingdom it resulted in arguments, seeking positions, jealousy and debate. Sounds like the same thing happening today.

Implications:

The kingdom of God is greater than any one person on earth thus there is no room for celebrities or a “nobody” in the kingdom.

The kingdom of God is greater than a single church, thus our main purpose is not advocating a particular church.

The kingdom of God is greater than a single denomination, thus we are not trying to make followers of a denomination. Also other evangelical churches are not our enemies but instead partners in the gospel to win the world.

No one church or denomination has a “corner” or monopoly on truth, thus we can learn from one another.

The kingdom of God is greater than a country, government or race, thus we are not dependent on anyone style of government, person or president or policy in order to advance the kingdom.