Kingdom Minded

What would you say is the main message presented by people today when they say they are going to present the gospel?

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. **Matthew 4:23**

My main issue with the Modern day Western gospel presentation is that we present salvation as the ultimate final destination. We see in the words of Christ repentance and salvation are the access, beginning, and entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven.

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” **Matthew 4:17**

At Hand: eggizō - to bring near, to join one thing to another.

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven. **Matthew 6:9-10**

Jesus was the truth. The truth that Heaven and Earth would forever be connected and the same government that existed in Heaven had been established in the Earth through Him.

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. **Isaiah 9:6-7**

With this truth in mind we see that the modern version of our existence in Christianity is not comparable to the truth of the Kingdom Christ revealed.

Kingdom meaning

To truly grasp one main concept of Kingdom thinking it is imperative to have knowledge into what the word Kingdom actually means.

The word kingdom is used 159 times in the Old Testament and 160 in the New Testament.

While there are 5 different Hebrew words for kingdom which can mean; to rule, dominion or to reign, they all come from the same Hebrew root word Malak.

4427. נָ֫לַ֫קַּק nālakk, maw-lak’; a prim. root; to reign; incept. to ascend the throne; causat. to induct into royalty; hence (by impl.) to take counsel:—consult, × indeed, be (make, set a, set up) king, be (make) queen, (begin to, make to) reign (-ing), rule, × surely.
In the New Testament there is only one Greek word used for kingdom and it is basilēia.

932. βασιλεία basilēia, bas-il-i´-ah; from 935; prop. royalty, i.e. (abstr.) rule, or (concr.) a realm (lit. or fig.):—kingdom, + reign.

935. βασιλεύς basilĕus, bas-il-yooce´; prob. from 939 (through the notion of a foundation of power); a sovereign (abs., rel. or fig.):—king.

939. βάσις basis, bas´-ece; from βαίνω bainō (to walk); a pace (“base”), i.e. (by impl.) the foot:—foot.

What is interesting with this word is it comes from a root word which means to walk a pace which implies the foot.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”  

Genesis 3:15

Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.  

Joshua 1:3

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.  

Romans 16:20

And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.  

Matthew 10:7

You actually preach the kingdom as you walk it out. There is a preaching with words but the kingdom must also be manifested or demonstrated.

We have to have the conscience awareness that the word kingdom is more than to rule or reign. The suffix “dom” in kingdom means domain. So kingdom is the domain of the King. It is the place where God rules and reigns.

What makes up a kingdom?
1. There must be a king.
2. There must be subjects in that kingdom.
3. There must be a place to rule and reign over.

So becoming kingdom minded is when the people of God have the thoughts of God ruling in their heart to transform the place the king rules over.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.  

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

If God’s thoughts rule our heart then our course will be the kingdom

II. Kingdom minded comparison to traditional.
It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it. **Luke 13:19**

a. The Kingdom has an aspect of being covert and over time it influences every aspect of your city and life.

b. In the first comparison a mustard seed is the smallest of seeds yet grows into a tree larger than any other plant in the garden. It provides refuge for others who are in the garden.

It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. **Luke 13:21**

a. The leaven was hidden. Hidden in separate places in the baking. Its presence allowed the whole of the baking or flour to rise.

b. The leaven affects the whole loaf in a positive way. Even if the loaf didn't want the positive affect. In Kingdom minded people, we love with no agenda. We love the unbeliever and believer alike. We are not selling Jesus. People should see the goodness of God in us and that will lead them to Him. We love them even if they never want Him.

c. “I hate the thought that the reason serve someone is to get them to come to my church.” - Kris Vallton.

d. In the kingdom we benefit believers and nonbelievers alike.

e. Rome fell 150 years after Constantine made it illegal to not be a christian. It wasn't immorality that caused the fall it was religion.

Keys for becoming Kingdom minded

1. **There must be a paradigm shift in the way we think of Kingdom.**

The reason most need a paradigm shift as it relates to kingdom is because most think of kingdom as something to come not understanding it has already came.

Paradigm: A paradigm is a set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality.

“You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. “The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. “You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. “Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” **Daniel 2:31-35**
The statue in King Nebuchadnezzar represents four kingdoms.

- The head made of gold represented the kingdom of Babylon.
- The breast and arms of silver represented the Medo-Persia kingdom.
- The belly and thighs of bronze represented the kingdom of Greece.
- The legs of iron and the feet of part iron and clay represented the kingdom of Rome.

Daniel 2:34-35 tells us that there was a stone cut without hands and that it struck the statue and crushed the entire statue and it became like chaff and the wind carried it away. Then we learn that this same stone became a great mountain that filled the whole earth.

Look at what Daniel 2:44 declares, “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.” Daniel 2:44

The last kingdom mentioned was the Roman Empire. When Jesus started his ministry, who was the kingdom in power at that time? It was the Roman kingdom.

When Jesus showed up, what was his message? “Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

The kingdom of Heaven is the stone in Daniel 2 that struck the statue and became a great mountain that filled the earth.

But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Luke 11:20

It was never Daniels objective to lead the King to God. It was his goal to live for God in the midst of the city and company of the King and he served the city and his King in such a way that eventually the King was influenced to seek God.

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? Romans 2:4

"You are the light of the world--like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:14-16

a. This light shines on unbelievers and believers alike. Everyone benefits from the light and finds refuge in the city. It’s our good works that people see and are drawn to The Father and God of this kingdom.

b. This whole analogy in Mathew 5 is dealing with Kingdom.

2. We have to see as He sees and think as He thinks.

How you see is crucial as to whether you will be one who advances the kingdom or one who hopes for a day of escape.
Will you be a person with an optimistic focus that says the kingdom of God is gaining ground or a pessimistic person who sees all the bad in life as a sign that all hope is gone and darkness is gaining ground?

Paul tells us in the book of Ephesians that we have been seated with Him in heavenly places. *Ephesians 2:6*

- The beauty of this is that we are not trying to see Heaven from earth but we get to see the earth from Heavens perspective.

- Do you see the earth from the place you walk in or the place you have been seated in?

As a man thinks in his heart so is he. *Proverbs 23:7*

- The word “think” implies the sense of thinking outside the box or having the authority to go beyond our present experience.

Your thoughts actually dictate the steps you take in life.

- Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. *Genesis 13:12*

- Because Lot continued looking toward Sodom, he eventually ends up there.

- And there came two angels to Sodom at evening; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. *Genesis 19:1*