

The King Revealed - From Unknown to Throne

The Message & The Mission of The King – Part 2

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Main Scripture

Luke 4:16-22 ESV

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph's son?”

The Gospel of the Kingdom

- Gospel (Biblical times)
 - Good news: in the Old Testament → almost always related to royal announcement
 - Specifically, the victory of a king, or the enthronement of a king over his kingdom
- As the story of the Old Testament develops, it becomes clear that the kings who rule over Israel are as corrupt and violent as the rulers of any other nation - this is a problem
- God uses Isaiah to announce the good news that Israel's divine King, the Creator, would come in person and become the new King of Israel
 - The exile takes place, which was a way to rid Israel of earthly kings
- There is this constant thread in the Old Testament of the word we understand as gospel, which comes from good news, relating to the victory of a king, or the enthronement of a king
 - Isaiah gives this announcement and leaves the nation with this good news but also great anticipation as to when it would happen and what it would look like.

Daniels Vision in Daniel 7:13-14

- Son of Man
- Ascension
- Given to Him, glory, dominion and a kingdom
- All peoples, nations and languages to serve Him
- His Throne and Kingdom are everlasting.

The Old Testament builds this anticipation of the coming of the divine King—the Messiah.

Jesus' Message

Mark 1:14-15 ESV

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Explanation

- Gospel (good news; same language as Old Testament)
- Who's the King? Whose kingdom is being described? → Kingdom of God
- Time is fulfilled (Anticipation left by Isaiah)
- When Jesus says, "Repent" he's saying, "stop and listen" - this good news is not about an earthly king but a heavenly King
 - This is worth changing your whole life for, in fact, this is going to change your life.

SO where is it? Where is this Kingdom and where is the King? What they saw did not match up with what they were expecting.

One of the problems of putting God in a box, is that if He shows up looking different than what we expected, we end up missing Him.

Luke 4:22

And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

- IS NOT THIS JOSEPH'S SON?
- Can anything good come from Nazareth? (John 1:46)
- Our limitations on God often come from letting what we know about Him be overshadowed by what we see in the world
- What they knew of Nazareth was greater than what they knew of God
 - So even though God was doing a new thing, they were stuck in old ways of thinking
 - If God cannot change your mind – has He really changed your heart?

This is why so much of Jesus' teaching challenged the religious and social norms of the day.

- The demands of His message
 - Repent
 - Sermon on the mount

Problem I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO OBEY THIS MESSAGE → this brings us to the necessity of Jesus' mission

Jesus' Mission

Luke 19:10 ESV

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

How will He do this? Through a sword of course...right? Their messiah needed to carry a sword, but God's Messiah needed to carry a cross. The messiah they wanted would have defeated Rome, but He would not have defeated sin so their circumstances would have changed but their hearts would have remained the same. Jesus comes to show them that what they wanted is not what they needed. He shows them, instead, that He is not the king they wanted but the king they needed and so His teachings begin to point to Himself.

John 18:36 MSG

“My kingdom,” said Jesus, “doesn’t consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. But I’m not that kind of king, not the world’s kind of king.”

Well what kind of king are you?

- What kind of king is Jesus? What is Jesus here to do?

“my followers would fight”

- Their expectation of the Messiah was built around what they saw as their biggest problem and their biggest blessing.
 - Problem - Rome
 - Blessing - Israel (the land).
- His message to Israel was—you didn’t just lose your land; you lost your first love
 - Reclaim what was and is His - EVERYTHING. But at the centre of God redeeming all creation is the redemption of humanity.

John 17:3-4 ESV

³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

- That they know you!
 - What does this mean for you?
 - Growing in appreciation, unity, and participation.

If this is the message and mission of King Jesus, what does this mean for us?

What does the mission and message of the King mean for the people of the Kingdom?

Priestly Prayer of Jesus

John 17:9 ESV

I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

Appreciation

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Believing and responding to the good news is at the core of what it means to follow Jesus.

Sanctify Them

Are you growing in your love for the Gospel? Do you treasure it more now than ever before?

Whatever is your greatest joy and treasure, that is your god. ~C. H. Spurgeon

God never put anyone in a place too small to grow in. ~Henrietta Mears

Unity

John 17:20-22 ESV

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one.

Individuality of the North American culture has convinced Christians that they can be on mission by themselves as if they are the only hope. “If only more Christians can be like me then...” and they carry a spirit of elitism that causes division and not unity.

Segregation

Groups segregate themselves not because of language limitations, or the country that they find themselves in, and not even because the demographic of their church represents the demographic of where they live, but because, “They aren’t like us. They don’t get us. It’s better this way.” The result is a church that represents the desire of your heart and not God’s heart.

Division over nonessential issues

- They dress like that
- They are not as charismatic
- They are too charismatic.

Unity is a true application of the people of the King. The unity that the New Testament church portrayed was a result of believing that the message and mission of Jesus was greater than their misunderstandings of each other.

Participation

John 17:15-18 ESV

¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

- “This is where I want to spend my time”
 - Within the followers of Jesus there seems to be a disconnect between the message and the mission of Jesus
 - An appropriate response to the message must translate into the mission
- The Holy Spirit was given because Christianity cannot be lived on autopilot
- Constant dependence is the essence of faith.

We are empowered to continue the mission of Jesus and to live lives that embody His message

- You cannot receive the message without reproducing the mission.

The Holy Spirit was not given so you can have a spiritual and emotional experience. You think: “I need the Holy Spirit so I can have an experience, so I can feel something”. This is the wrong motive and the wrong focus. It is similar to old Israel and the religious leaders of Jesus’ day.

When we think of the Holy Spirit only in the context of personal experience, we limit His power, but we also divorce Him from the message and mission of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit was given not just to change the believer but to change the world through believers. If we do not understand this, we will produce churchianity not Christianity.

The Holy Spirit is the agent of Creation in the Old Testament and in the New Testament He is the agent of recreation through the believer and the church. This is why individually we are called the temple and collectively we are called the body.

We are called the **body** because even though Jesus is not walking on the Earth, He is living in and working through His followers as they walk the earth.

We are called the **temple** not just because the Holy Spirit is in us, but the Holy Spirit works through us. The temple was not just a place for God's presence to dwell, it was the place for God's presence to be encountered – a place to meet and connect with God.

Context of the Holy Spirit being given

- Go make disciples
- Before you go, wait for the Holy Spirit
- Tongues - describing the works of God in their language
- Peter preaches and people get saved

Great commission

I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth, therefore go

- There is a new King and Kingdom
- Live life knowing Jesus is King

His mission is finished and yet functioning through us.