

Beyond Belief Session 3A: Apprentices of Jesus

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The Kingdom of God

- Acts 1 – not a political kingdom
- Daniel 2 – the clearest image of the Kingdom of God
- It will displace all _____ but not with another human government.
- It's not the Millennium. Christ will reign on earth in this time but he won't have what we'd recognize as human government. It will be a _____ government!
- If you undertake to govern with human means you end up with Ayatollah Khomeini

The Kingdom of God is the _____ of God's effective _____.

This World is Perfectly Safe

- ✓ This world is a perfectly _____ place for us to be.
- ✓ There is nothing that will happen to us in this world that will not be brought to good by God.
- ✓ The testimony of the resurrection of Christ and his triumph over death is to stand before the world as a witness that _____ is not an ultimate power.

All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purposes.

Romans 8:28

- All doesn't leave anything out.
- For good. Not all things are good.
- Together for good. Not independently.
- We never suffer without hope because our confidence is in a _____ that cannot be shaken; it's the Kingdom of God.

That's an experiential hope. A hope that we have on the basis of our actual experience with the Kingdom of God working in our lives. We've taken our kingdom (the range of our effective will) and brought it to Jesus and turned it over to Him. And the Trinity says "Welcome! You can go into business with us! We'll teach you, you can run on our resources, you can be a part of our family, and we're going to go on forever."

Becoming a Disciple

- We have work to do!
- We're not left in a _____ condition
- We're not immediately transformed and rewired
- We have life in ourselves and peace with God
- We're given the power to become students of Jesus in such a way that all that's in us of the old world will gradually be _____.

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The Great Inversion

The Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of men are _____ of one another.

- 1st Samuel 1 and 2 Hannah's situation and subsequent prayer
 - The prayer of one who has been lifted up in the Kingdom of God.
 - 1 Samuel 2:3-5 (those who were down now are up)
- Exodus 15:1-18 ~ the Song of Moses
- Luke 1:46-55 ~ Mary's Magnificat

The reversals of life are what we now have to integrate into our own being. That takes some doing. It's partly up to us.

Paul's –

- Ephesians 4:22 - Put off the old person and put on the new person
- Romans 8:13 - Mortify the deeds of the flesh and you shall live
- Colossians 3:5 - Mortify therefore your members upon the earth / the mess that's inside

Mortify – means to kill off, to let it die. There is a process for us. It is to be done in the power of the Spirit (refer back to Romans 8:13!)

Becoming Disciples

I am going to learn from Him how to _____ my life in the Kingdom of God as He would _____ my life if He were I.

- You and I have to decide if we are disciples or not.
- How would you know if you were a disciple?
- How would you know if you'd made a disciple?

I'm a disciple of Jesus. That means I am learning from Him how to lead MY life (not His life) in the Kingdom of God as He would lead my life if He were I.

Being a Disciple in the Kingdom / Whole-Life Gospel!

What do I need to learn from Jesus?

Being a disciple is not a matter of learning to do _____ things.

- Doing religious things does not put us in mastery of our lives under Jesus.
- I can perfect my religious activity and yet the rest of my life can still be a _____.

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God is interested in our failures!

- The primary place to receive God into our lives is where we're _____.
- Invite Him to take over there.

We need the message of a whole life: business, ambitions, education, politics. The Good News of the Kingdom of the Heavens is _____ to all of it.

Sermon on the Mount: Jesus' Teaching the Kingdom

Who is really well off? Matthew 5

- ✓ A person who is _____ in the Kingdom of God
- ✓ Matthew 6:33 – seek first the Kingdom – that is the _____ life!
- ✓ You are truly well off if you're alive in the Kingdom of God! That is true well-being!
- ✓ The point of the Beatitudes is to give an inversion. These are the people the world thinks are bad off, but they are _____.

Who is a truly good person? Matthew 5:20, 21 & following.

- People want to be well-off but more than that they want to be a _____ person.
- Question their goodness and you're in the fire.
- The hunger for _____ is deep and radical.
- People will go to any length to sustain the appearance of being a good person.

...to be continued in Session 3's videos.... 3B & 3C