

One Man's Brush With The Kingdom of God

Have you ever thought of God as King?

- Psa 47:6-7 ESV Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! 7 For **God is the King of all the earth**; sing praises with a psalm!
- Psa 103:19 ESV The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and **his kingdom rules over all**.

The gospel of the kingdom of God is the message Jesus preached

- Mar 1:14 KJV Now after that John was put in prison, **Jesus came** into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God**

He described the nature of the Kingdom to Pontius Pilate

Joh 18:36-37 ESV Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world**. If **my kingdom** were of this world, **my servants** would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But **my kingdom** is not from the world." 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. **For this purpose I was born** and **for this purpose I have come into the world--to bear witness to the truth**. Everyone **who is of the truth listens to my voice**."

1) My Kingdom

- So who is the King then? - 3 times Jesus called it "my kingdom"

2) My Servants

- Every kingdom has servants who carry out the wishes of the king

3) My Voice

- The Kingdom is founded in TRUTH
- If we are people of the truth - we LISTEN to his VOICE

One man's brush with the Kingdom of God

Mar 10:17-31 ESV And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "**Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?**" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? **No one is good except God alone**. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "**You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me**." 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "**How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!**" 24 And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, **how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!** 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person **to enter the kingdom of God**."

The question of eternal life is really a question about the kingdom of God

- The man's original question was "What must I do to **inherit eternal life?**" and Jesus finished the entire conversation with "How difficult it is to **enter the kingdom of God!**"
- Jesus described this difficulty 3x

Let's walk through the conversation - to see where the disconnect was

FIRST: He did not see Jesus for who He really is

Mar 10:17-31 ESV 17 "**Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?**" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? **No one is good except God alone.**"

He called him "Good Teacher" – he put the LORD into the role of teacher

- **Calling Jesus teacher** is bundling him together with any number of teachers, rabbis or gurus
- **Calling him teacher** is diminishing the focus of the relationship between us - transmission of knowledge vs Servant and King
- How we view Jesus forms the basis of our relationship with Him

Jesus corrected the man's perception -- "No one is good—except God alone".

- Jesus is not denying His deity, -- but HE IS challenging this man's assumption
- Many call Jesus a good man, a good prophet, a good teacher, but if we are to receive eternal life, we must recognize Him for who he is – God
- In essence he is saying, "**If you are calling me GOOD then acknowledge me as GOD.**"
- **The man saw Jesus as a GOOD TEACHER, but not as a KING WITH A KINGDOM**

SECOND: He believed there was something HE COULD DO to inherit eternal life

19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to him, "Teacher, **all these I have kept from my youth.**"

Maybe he was an overachiever

- (He kept these commandments - he was a rich man)
- Yet he still felt something was lacking / missing - maybe the LORD is dealing with him

Maybe it was selfishly motivated / he had something to gain

- "show me what I must do to inherit eternal life"

The fact is there is NOTHING I can do to gain eternal life - it is in what I let go of - it is TRUST

THIRD: There is only ONE THING YOU CAN DO - surrender all

21 And Jesus, looking at him, **loved him**, and said to him, "**You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.**" 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away **sorrowful**, for he had great possessions.

Jesus LOVED HIM - Yet the man was disheartened

- **The ONE THING he lacked was - the KING was not first in his life**
- **It is a safe place to be when we surrender all**
- **You will have treasure in heaven**
- He kept all the other commandments - but Jesus was not FIRST

Jesus said repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand, is it worth ALL YOU HAVE?

Mat 13:44-46 ESV "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

As we think about 2020 - and clarity of vision - let's start the year and renew our commitment to Jesus as King...

How do you view Jesus? - is He King?

If not - what is the ONE THING YOU ARE LACKING

His truth is the basis of obedience - are you willing to hear His voice and respond?

What about selling out? - has the kingdom of God caught your heart to the point you are willing to sell everything in order to buy it

Our walk with Jesus does not make sense unless we sell out -