

Kingdom Come Series ©: Rules of Engagement

I. Intro

A. The world's a huge place.

Population? AD 33 200 million, now 6.5 billion

Size? Whose the farthest from home?

It's hard to think about really owning the fact that Jesus called us left us here to take the message to the whole world- we melt down somewhere in the process of thinking about that and fall back on various strategies to manage our fear of what might be needed

B. But we can miss an important point here if we are not careful:

Jesus called us to make disciples Matt 28 throughout the world so that the message would reach the world. The call is to engagement with people not our world John 17:16-18

C. Let's talk about what engagement means: have audience attempt to move an object with their mind. Stand up and try to move the person in front of you. Now give them a push- it is not until you engage personally that they move

D. The pattern of Jesus- engaged with the world to transform lives. His life and ministry demonstrate this

E. We are designed for engagement- we are not whole without it
God's kingdom is expanded through our engagement. It is part of God's plan

Transformation only occurs through engagement

II. So what is engagement all about? Let's explore a few biblical principles

A. It is not about people- it is about God's kingdom.

-humanitarians are all about people- we must be all about the Lord

-how do you tell the difference between a humanitarian and a follower?

-our father's business, what God is doing.

-we are engaging in God's plan! I Cor 3:9- God's fellow workers, 2 Cor 6:1,

Heb 3:1-partners in a heavenly calling

B. It is not about how far from home you are willing to go, it is about how deeply you are willing to invest.

-requires going but is not about going. Just being in Africa does not mean you have engaged.

-not occasional acts of kindness but intentional investment of whole self..

-not just being a friend who listens but a friend who speaks the truth.

-engagement is an important ingredient in God's work to expand His kingdom

-God invested His only Son in us and gave us Himself to live. We know love by willingness to give up our lives for our friends. I John 4:9, John 15:13

C. It is not about plans - it is about opportunities

-engagement is a process not a plan

-getting out of our comfort zone

-prepared for work at the coal face (front lines) as a dynamic process

-plans are necessary for opportunities but not sufficient

-life of Paul. Mind of a man plans his way but the Lord directs his steps Pr. 16:9

D. It is not driven by skills, it is driven by love

-most effective tool has not been what I do but why I do it and how I do it

Loving my wife

The love of our senders team

Serving as a volunteer

-skills are necessary but not sufficient

-do our work heartily as unto the Lord Col 3:23

-we are designed to respond to love I john4:7-12, John 15:12

III. Final thoughts-

A. Engagement is a selective process- you can't engage everyone, or in every issue. It is cyclic and seasonal.

B. Use your best in every situation and leave the results to the Lord. "The results of obedience to a sovereign God are in His hands and His hands alone". Elizabeth Elliott

C. Remember our actions, given meaning by our words, powered by a heart in partnership with the Lord, produce transformation