

Kingdom Come Series ©

A study in the sovereignty of God and what it means for missions

Week 6: kingdom expansion principles

G Strauss Sept. 2008

I. Review:

- A. God rules eternally- His Kingdom is eternal
- B. God will make His rule fully known to us in the age to come
- C. The history of missions and modern thought have exposed weaknesses and opened new opportunities for the people of God
- D. God has ideally positioned His Kingdom in this present age to express both His glory and His love so that His Kingdom will expand.
- E. The gospel message is the story of how the barriers to the Kingdom (Satan, sin, death, and the blindness of man) have been broken down so that we may be rescued (“saved”) from this present evil age simply by making a choice to receive and follow Jesus (Matt 19:13-14 faith of a child).
- F. Our mission is to press forward with the gospel of the Kingdom into every nation using methods consistent with the Kingdom and motivated by a hunger for the glory of God to be revealed.

II. **Jesus started a movement to extend the Kingdom worldwide.** How did He do this?

A. **A new “nation” (assembly) would be built**

- 1. The keys to the Kingdom Matt 16:14-19, I Tim 3:15
 - Jesus will build His own “assembly” (church) just like God had done with the nation of Israel. Disciples would recognize the reference to the Septuagint “assembly”
 - Just like God built a nation from Abraham, Jesus is building a “nation” of priests and kings to go to the world.
 - the church is God’s tool to open the doors to the Kingdom with the light of the truth. The church will be opposed by Satan but not defeated.
- 2. **Don’t let the functions of the church (worship, community, outreach) distract from its mission.**
 - We have made it all about the church which is a clever way of making it all about us!

B. **He would be the Head of a “body” that would sustain the movement**

Eph 4:11-16

- 1. The church is intended to “go” corporately (as a body) using all its diverse parts to accomplish its mission.
- 2. It must care for itself and work together to work effectively but its purpose is its Kingdom mission.
- 3. We need the church for our mission because we cannot do it alone.

C. **We are called to be a part of the Kingdom missions movement**

- 1. Always see ourselves in light of the larger story of God’s Kingdom mission

2. Look to the character of God for our foundation.
 - Develop an “incarnational impulse”: The drive to lovingly step out into the world like God has done Jn 1:14, Phil 2:5-8
 - It is an outward thrust rooted in the love of God to restore the world. John 3:16, John 17:18
3. **Key concepts for mission effectiveness** (based on example of the early church movement and Chinese home church movement)
 - Passionately confess Jesus as Lord – we need a King
I Cor 8:5-6, Eph 1:20-23
 - Commit to the core task of making disciples who embody the ways of Jesus. Matt 28:18-20, I Cor 11:1 (be examples)
(Note how the kingdom emerges where the seed of the gospel has taken root. I Thess.1:6-8)
 - Build your desire for God to get the credit
John 5:18-19, 30, John 17:1-4, I Cor 3:5-9, Matt 6:1-4
 - Each of us must be willing to take personal responsibility for the mission
I Cor 3:5-9, Matt 13:33 (leaven), Col 1:17-16, I Cor 12:12-27
 - Be willing to pursue a risky and unpleasant journey since our Leader has chosen to allow continued opposition- Heb 12:1-4
AND He disciplines His children Heb 12:5-11 (we hopefully mature but we will always be children in the kingdom and we will have growth pains our whole life)

III. How do we take advantage of this transitional time in missions to engage more effectively?

- A. Combat our tendency towards dualistic approaches to evangelism
 1. We must focus on the whole experience of man not just his “spiritual problems”. Follow the example of Jesus Luke 10:8-9
 2. “Sanctify the everyday” Hirsch “For hope to be credible for the future it needs to be tangible in the present” Robert Seiple
- B. Combat our tendency to wait for others to find sweeping social solutions rather than staying on mission to individuals. Social change starts with individuals.
- C. Combat the expectation that education solves the problems
 1. We tend to emphasize sharing of information, conferences, and books. Doing seminars in Africa has not changed anything and it is debatable that it has helped us either.
 2. We should emphasize sharing our lives, walking with others. Emphasize action-reflection, mentoring, embodiment, and modeling.
 3. Remember light is increased by making biblically sound choices.
Luke 8:11-18, John 3:20-21, II Tim 2:24-26, James 2:14-20
- D. We must consciously combat consumerism in our own lives as well as the church-
 1. Today’s religion of self actualization opposes everything about the kingdom and is fed by consumerism which promises comfort, convenience, and personal satisfaction.

2. We must be careful that churches are not consumer driven vendors of spiritual programs and ecstatic experiences.

A study guide for international participants:

1. What does God's act of sending His Son to the world teach us about the character of God? John 1:14, Philippians 2:5-8, John 3:16, John 17:18
2. What was the central belief of the early church according to I Corinthians 8:5-6 and Ephesians 1:20-23?
3. What is our primary task as we participate in God's redemptive mission according to Matthew 28:18-20, I Corinthians 11:1?
4. Who must get the credit for all success according to John 5:18-19, John 17:1-4, I Corinthians 3:5-9?
5. What does Matthew 16:15-19 and I Timothy 3:15 teach us about the role of the church in the kingdom mission?
6. List ideas on next steps you should take to increase your effectiveness for the kingdom mission.