

A BORN RULER

WILLIS 12/6/09

Mt 2:1-2

We are continuing our series today on The Kingdom of God. So far we have dealt with “First Things First.” We said, **“The Kingdom of God is the daily governmental way of God that when sought first Jesus promised everything else would be given.”**

- In the message “Definitions and Intents” we said, though the Kingdom stands outside our ability to reduce to a simple definition, but as a reference point to begin we said, **“The Kingdom of God is the realm of God, the rule of God and the ruler of God.”**
- Being the Kingdom is God’s rule, the central focus of the Kingdom is the Throne of Jesus Christ or more specifically, His right to rule everything within His realm...which is “the earth and everything in it.”
- In “Unselfing Self” we said, **“The primary focus of Christ’s rule is to dethrone self and fully enthrone Himself in every sphere, jurisdiction or cultural mountain in life...beginning with the heart of the individual.”**
- We don’t realize how much self wants to be in control until we introduce another government...a higher authority. It’s like the person who said, “I don’t have a problem with authority, I just don’t like people telling me what to do.”
- Then in “A Coronation Within,” we said, **“Though Christ has already been crowned King of Heaven, there still awaits a Coronation of the heart. A Coronation where every individual allows His Kingdom to come and establish the Throne within.”**

So today we pick up this last but certainly not least aspect of Christ’s Kingdom expression...The Ruler of God. We have addressed The Realm, The Rule and now we focus today on The Ruler. In making our walk with God about rules, religion totally misses the focus.

1. **Life in the Kingdom is not about rules it is about The Ruler. A ruler who through a benevolent takeover of the heart changes the do’s and don’ts of religion into the wants and desires of relationship.**

Mt2:1-2

Jesus is not waiting to become King He was born King. He is not waiting for His Kingdom to come so then He can rule, He was born Ruler. Consequently “getting saved” is far more that just being forgiven of sin. Our transfer out of the Kingdom of darkness and brought over into the Kingdom of God begins with:

1. **The Declaration of a King: 1Tm6:15** If my salvation is just about my forgiveness and me going to heaven then Christianity is all about me. But Paul tells us to come in we were crucified, so our participation in the divine life begins with our surrender and declaration of the King.
 - **Membership in the Kingdom is preceded by Lordship to the King.** Before Jesus was crucified Savior He was born King, so only as we submit to His Kingship do we participate in His life.
 - In the declaration is the surrender. Once surrendered then we are positioned to receive. **Many try to receive Jesus as Savior without surrendering to Him as King, so they get forgiven but don't get changed.**

2. **The Receiving of a Savior: Rom10:9-10** It is a reception that Paul says "if we receive Him as Lord" then we will be saved. No question about it, MAN NEEDS A SAVIOR but if we begin with Savior and not embrace Him as King, we live void of the King's life.
 - Christianity is full of saved people who live void of the abundant life...going to heaven but living a "hell" type of life. (bitter, angry, negative and messed up)
 - **The receiving of a Savior makes us participants in heaven; the surrender to the King makes us partakers of the divine life.**
 - Without Kingship there is little to no lasting change. O there is ultimate change in heaven but we are to be partakers of the divine life here on earth.
 - The participation in that divine life is through 1. The Declaring Him as King. 2. The receiving Him as Savior and...

3. **The Embracing of His Kingdom: Ep2:10** The work or way prepared in advance for us to walk is the work and way of the Kingdom. We participate in the life to the degree we walk in the way. The more of His Kingdom we embrace the more of His life we receive.

Consequently straight out of the gate the Kingdom of God was the message preached. **The Kingdom of God was the central focus of John's message:**

- Mt3:2 "John the Baptist came preaching, repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- **"at hand" is the Greek word "eggizo." It is a verb used in reference to space and time meaning, "something has come and is now here."**
- John came preaching Jesus is now come so the Kingdom is now here. He came saying the Kingdom is no longer just a future event...the Kingdom is the Ruler and the Ruler is now here.
- Jesus and the Kingdom are one. The Kingdom became flesh and dwelt among us. The Kingdom became flesh and dwelt in a person. So the people didn't just hear the Kingdom, they saw the Kingdom.
- In Christ the government of God went from the conceptual into the actual. All of a sudden the Kingdom of God became very practical.

The Kingdom of God was the central focus of Christ's message: Mt 4:23 "And Jesus was going about proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God." Please note it wasn't the Gospel of Salvation but the Gospel of the Kingdom.

- The Gospel of the Kingdom most certainly includes the Gospel of Salvation but the Gospel of Salvation doesn't necessarily include the good news of the Kingdom.
- For far too long many have preached Jesus without preaching His Kingdom. Consequently we receive a Savior but not a government. We might even acknowledge Him as King but not acknowledge His realm or His right to rule

The entire theme of the New Testament is the Person of Christ and the Order of Christ. The person and the order are inseparably linked because the person is the King and the order is the Kingdom.

- Those who turned the known world upside down didn't do so with a salvation message only. They turned the world upside down because they were known as "those of the way." Those of the Person and those of the Order of Christ.

If the Bible makes the King and His Kingdom the central focus of its message, then our greatest need is to submit to the Person of Christ and embrace the order of His Kingdom. Let's see how the person of Christ and the order of His Kingdom interrelate.

- **Christ reveals the governor; the Kingdom reveals the government.**
- **Christ reveals the character of God; the Kingdom reveals the expectations of God.**
- **Christ reveals the truth of God; the Kingdom reveals the way of God.**
- **Jesus is the absolute person; the Kingdom is the absolute order.**

So when Jesus went about proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom what was He saying?

1. **The End of Self Rule:** Jesus was proclaiming no More Is53:6; No more Judges 21:25. The day of man being a government unto them self was over. The individual, the culture, all bows their knee to the King. (self rule is still a major issue in the Body of Christ)
2. **The End of Relativism:** Jesus was proclaiming the absolute centering point of life that ended all relativisms of the day. He was coming as the axiom from which all corollaries would follow. Only in Him would life have absolute context.
3. **The End of Individualism:** Jesus was proclaiming a Kingdom whose centering point was the King not the subjects. A kingdom where the only rights of the subjects were the right to find their life in the King. (individualism is the thief of unity, mobilization)
4. **The End of Dualism:** Jesus was proclaiming no more separation in the secular and the sacred. He proclaimed a Kingdom which centered its realm and rule in the whole not the limited part. The KOG is a comprehensive all inclusive Kingdom.

- 5. The End of Lawlessness:** Jesus was proclaiming a Kingdom whose centering point was the law Word of God not the individual will of man. The Kingdom was coming to align man to God. The person of Christ coming to align the person of man; the order of Christ coming to align the order of man.

“And Jesus went about proclaiming the Gospel of the government of God...” the gospel of the realm of God...the gospel of the rule of God...the gospel that re-centers man in God rather in himself.

- So our evaluation point today is our centering. If you are here today and you are not saved, I would like to invite you to come and let our ministry team pray for you to be saved and get re-centered.
- If you are here saved but not centered, I would like to invite you to come and give the government of your life to the King.