

Life Church Message 2013-03-31 - A Different Kind Of Kingdom

- **A Different Kind Of Kingdom**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday March 31, 2013

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- **A Different Kind Of Kingdom**

- **Preparation**

- **Introduction**

- Welcome to another church meeting at the Hampton Inn & Suites.

- Welcome Cards -

- Transition

- Review what it means to be a Christian.

- What does it mean to be a Christian?

- "Christ" = "anointed one" - effectively "king".

- The Disciples were first called "Christians" at Antioch - Acts 11:19-26

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. **The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.**

- "Christian" = "belonging to Christ".

- Christians follow Jesus

- Jesus' people know his voice and follow him - John 10:22-30

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out

of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

- Remind them of how we illustrated "following" with "Simon Says".
- As followers of Jesus, we gather on Sundays (The Lord's Day) to celebrate him.
- **Read the Passage - Mark 16**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.
- **Exegetical Idea**

Jesus rose from the dead and commissioned his disciples to proclaim the good news of God's Kingdom to the whole world.
- **What does this mean?**
 - How can we understand the terms "Father", "Kingdom", "good news", "resurrection", etc. the way the 1st century residents of Palestine understood them?

- Think about two-stage journeys:
 - Fly to Florida to take a cruise.
 - Taxi to airport to catch a flight.
 - Jesus' contemporaries were flying from LaGuardia.
 - We're flying from Logan.
- The words “Father”, “Kingdom”, “good news”, etc. are the first leg of the journey. We then use stories to take us to a more complete understanding.
 - What stories do we use to help us understand "The Father"?
 - What stories do we use to help us understand "The Kingdom"?
 - What stories do we use to help us understand "good news"?
 - What stories do we use to help us understand "resurrection"?
- Use stories, rather than isolated verses. Isolated verses have their place (e.g. fighting temptation), but they can also distract us from the understanding the comes from following the whole story.
- Other stories will control your thinking unless you feed on God's stories.
- Other people’s stories will control you unless you discover and proclaim the story that God wants you to tell.
- Jesus rose from the dead.
 - Bodily resurrection.
 - Confounded the expectations of his followers.
 - The Father's declaration that Jesus was his son.
 - **Romans 1:1-6**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, **and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.** Through him and for his name’s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.
- Proclaim good news.
 - References from Israel's history - Isaiah 61-62; Luke 4:14-32
 - References from Roman history
 - Announcement of a new emperor.
 - Announcement of the emperor's birthday.
- Good news of God's Kingdom

- Towards a proper understanding of God's Kingdom
 - The word "kingdom" has less meaning for Americans.
 - All the alternatives are also inadequate:
 - God's government
 - God's administration
- Initial proclamation - **Mark 1:9-15**

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After John was **put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"**

 - "God's administration is coming to power. Repent and believe the election results!"
- Post-resurrection teaching - **Acts 1:1-3**

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. **He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.**
- God's Kingdom was different from what his contemporaries expected. it's also different from what we usually imagine.
 - Where is it?
 - How does it expand?
 - Who belongs to it?
 - How is it managed?
 - What's it like to be inside?
- **Is it True? Do I believe it?**
 - Yes - Matthew 28
 - Yes - Luke 24
 - Yes - John 20
 - Gospel writers wrote independently.
 - Gospels reveal the disciples' flaws and unbelief.

- Jesus' followers were not expecting his resurrection. This is reflected in the gospel accounts written 20 - 30 years after the fact.
- Something changed the disciples outlook after Sunday morning.
- **What difference does it make? So What?**
 - Jesus is at the center of God's plan to fix everything.
 - We are Jesus' agents in God's plan.
 - Be a team player.
 - Join a team.
 - Pray for everybody.
 - Befriend the open.
 - Evangelize the curious.
 - Disciple the hungry.
 - Promote the faithful.
- **Formulate the Homiletical Idea:**
Jesus Lives - Team Up and Demonstrate It!
- **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
 - Form a team.
 - Demonstrate that Jesus is alive.
- **Form a team.**
 - The Kingdom is lived out in teams that become family to one another.
 - God is adopting family members, not spectators.
- **Demonstrate that Jesus is alive.**
 - Dare to be touched by the needs of those around you.
 - Bring their needs to Jesus via your team/family.
 - Invite them to follow Jesus and join the family.
- **Discussion Questions**
 - What is God saying to you about the resurrection today?
 - What is the good news all about? How does it relate to the Kingdom?
 - Is God's Kingdom a present reality in your life or just a future event? What 's the proof?
 - Are you on a team? Which one? Do they know you're on their team?

- How does your team demonstrate to outsiders that Jesus is alive?

- **Conclusion**

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- **Life Group Material**

- **Life Group Word Material**

These are sample discussion questions / topics. Your life group leaders may choose to adjust these questions, substitute new ones, or spend the Word section of the meeting in a different way altogether.

Scripture taken from the [HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION \(NIV\)](#). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 [International Bible Society](#). Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Mark 16

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will

drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Mark 1:1-15

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” — “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

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Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. **He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

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Discussion Questions

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- **Scriptures For 3/31/2013 Life Church Sermon**

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Life Church Mission Statement

Our mission is to teach people:

to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame,
to follow him together as his family,
to function together as his body,
and to work together to expand his kingdom.