

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Last week, we introduced the teaching series titled **THE ATMOSPHERE FOR KINGDOM MANIFESTATION**.

This morning I want to start off by echoing the words that were spoken by the late Dr Myles Munroe – “When the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable”. I want to apply this statement to the matter that is at hand – the matter of the kingdom.

I can hear someone asking the question “what’s is the big deal about the kingdom”. That statement stems from a deprived understanding of the kingdom of God. You will not pursue the kingdom if you don’t understand its purpose and the reason for its existence.

This morning I want to talk to you on a subject matter **LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD**.

- Someone needs a revelation of how life looks like in the kingdom of God, someone needs to appreciate the benefits of being part of the Kingdom of God. Your lack of exposure to something does not nullify its existence.
- There must have been a reason why Jesus asked us to pray “*your kingdom come*” (Matthew 6:10).
- There is an intrinsic value attached to the kingdom of God – the kingdom of God is more valuable than any amount of earthly riches. Pitted is a person who is rich on earth without the kingdom of God.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which when a man has found it, he hides it, and for the joy of it goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls; 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

- Let’s begin by revisiting the definition of the kingdom: The word kingdom in the Bible means God’s kingly rule — his reign, his action, his lordship, his sovereign governance.

Matthew 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

- When John the Baptist uttered these words, he was referring to the entry of God’s long awaited anointed one - Jesus Christ.
- Jesus was the promised son of David who would not only be the savior, deliverer and King of Israel but of the entire humanity.

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- By declaring that the kingdom had come near, John meant that the rule of God was about to overthrow the power and rule of all evil.
- The coming of Jesus meant that the presiding King had come down to set humanity free from the domination of the kingdom of darkness.
- The coming of the kingdom of God brought a new world of potential hope to mankind
- The following is an extract from one of Dr Myles' books

A careful and honest look at the biblical Script will reveal that the fundamental message of this greatly misunderstood Book is about a King and a Kingdom. The Bible is not primarily about a religion or rituals, but about the establishment of a kingdom rulership on this planet from the heavenly realm.

It is about a divine project of governing earth from Heaven through mankind. In practical terms, the Bible is about a royal family mandated to colonize earth from Heaven. This kingdom assignment is the priority of God the Creator and the object of mankind's inherent pursuit. (Myles Munroe – Kingdom Principles)

1. How does life in the kingdom of God look like?

- Many people are ignorant of what life should be in the kingdom – the result of that is that they end up living below kingdom standards and don't see the need to be involved in the expansion project.
- That is why God spoke through the prophet Hosea:

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you as My priests. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

- Believers live substandard lives because they lack the true knowledge of the kingdom of God.

1.1 Access to the forgiveness of sin

- The access to and the sustenance of life in the kingdom is forgiveness of sins.
- When you consider the course of natural life, you will agree with me that any normal human being does not feel at ease as long as he knows that he did something wrong that he has not been forgiven of.

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- That person will carry a burden which can only be removed by forgiveness. This is just in the natural, how much more in the spirit?
- The world is burdened by unforgiven sin – the presence of the unforgiven sin has turned us into animals literally.
- How do we explain the evil that we experience on a daily basis – the back biting, the callous murders, the cold-hearted corruption of our day, racism and prejudice, homophobic tendencies etc.
- It is because man is spiritually dead without hope of being alive, without hope of receiving forgiveness of sin.
- That is the state of life outside the kingdom – outside the kingdom of God, man has no hope for forgiveness.
- When you know that you cannot be forgiven, you are likely to sin again because you are telling yourself, you have messed up already, what is the point of trying to do right now.
- Researchers have a name for this phenomenon. They call it the “What-The-Hell Effect.” Basically, it means that after messing up, we tend to mess up even more. It was coined by dieting researchers who noticed that when their subjects had even small indiscretions (a bite of ice cream or one slice of pizza) it was followed by a full-on binge. Psychologist Kelly McGonigal explains this thinking behind this behavior.
- If there can be any hope of rehabilitation, if there can be any hope to stop child and woman abuse, that hope lies in the kingdom of God.

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

- When you are in the kingdom of God, you have a chance for a fresh start – the king of glory came down in order to give humanity a second chance.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Man does not need a prison in order to rehabilitate him, man needs Jesus!
- There is no amount of self help that will change the heart of a woman except the help that comes from Jesus the Lord.

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Acts 4: 12 Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

- Kingdom citizens have access to a life of forgiveness, they have access to a second chance. This second chance comes through faith in King Jesus. You are saved by grace through faith.
- There is a sad behavior that has been observed among man, it is the behavior of a kingdom citizen who lives as if he is not forgiven.
- Many believers keep on carrying sin that the King has forgiven. The plan of the devil is to keep on reminding you of your confessed sin until he renders you dysfunctional.
- This is the reason why many people walk defeated – it is not because they have not been forgiven, it is because they are walking under a cloud of condemnation.
- Please do not confuse being convicted and being condemned – the Holy Spirit will convict of you unconfessed sin, whilst the devil will condemn you of confessed sin.
- When you fail to accept the Lord's forgiveness, you make yourself more righteous than God.

Romans 8:1 (TPT) So now the case is closed. There remains no accusing voice of condemnation against those who are joined in life-union with Jesus, the Anointed One. 2 For the "law" of the Spirit of life flowing through the anointing of Jesus has liberated us from the "law" of sin and death. Access to God the Father

Romans 8:33 (TPT) Who then would dare to accuse those whom God has chosen in love to be his? God himself is the judge who has issued his final verdict over them— "Not guilty!" 34 Who then is left to condemn us? Certainly not Jesus, the Anointed One! For he gave his life for us, and even more than that, he has conquered death and is now risen, exalted, and enthroned by God at his right hand. So how could he possibly condemn us since he is continually praying for our triumph?

- As long as you do not receive your forgiveness by faith, you will always live a substandard life in the kingdom.