

BEING EFFECTIVE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD



MATTHEW 4:23 | ACTS 10:38 | MATTHEW 6:33



The above scriptures speak about the things Jesus did whilst He was on earth, and it specifies the message that He preached, which is the message of the Kingdom of God. For God to be in human form and consistently preach about something, it should highlight its importance. From the definition, a kingdom is a country or state that is ruled by a king or queen. So when Jesus preached about His Kingdom, He preached about the 'country' or 'state' where He is king. Jesus is not just a king, but He is the King of kings. His Kingdom is the domain of His reign, it is the realm where God is king. Somethings to note about a kingdom is that the king is the supreme authority and He can't be voted into power or out of power. Whatever the king says, goes.

When Jesus spoke to Pilot (in John 18:36-37), He told him that, His kingdom isn't of this world but He has come to bear witness of it. He was pointing to the fact that His kingdom isn't of man, but He has come to testify of it to man. And though it can not be physically seen, it is as real as the breath you breathe. Part of bearing witness of the Kingdom is to put out an invitation for man to be a part of it, and that's because every kingdom seeks to expand which is evident even in modern-day history. Reading from Matthew 13:33, Jesus likens the Kingdom of God to yeast that works its way through the whole batch of flour. What Jesus was saying here is that 'what I came with may seem small like yeast, but it will have the same effect as yeast.'

The Kingdom that was so far for man to reach, has come down to be manifest (see Matthew 3:2 and Luke 17:21), and those that receive Jesus become citizens of that Kingdom. Not only do you become a citizen of the Kingdom, but you get to reign with His authority here on earth (see Matthew 28:18-20). In other words, the responsibility of expanding the Kingdom of God here on earth has been given to the believers. It should be every believer's desire to express heaven here on earth and not just wait to meet the Lord.

Every Roman emperor had the assignment of making the region they conquered to resemble and function as the headquarters (Rome) did. Similarly, we as believers have that assignment to bring heaven down on earth, in all aspects. It should be a desire to see things around conform to the will of God. But to change and influence the world, we need to be changed first. Paul tells us in Colossians 1:13 that we have been translated from the kingdom of darkness and have been brought into the kingdom of God's beloved Son, which is the kingdom of light. However, translation doesn't necessarily equal transformation. Though when one is born again their citizenship becomes that of heaven, their minds don't automatically sync to the ways of the Kingdom.



After being translated into God's Kingdom, one needs to pursue the process of transformation, which starts with the renewal of the mind. As long as one's mind isn't Kingdom focused, there will always be a fight against God's will. That's why Jesus said "seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, then everything will be added unto it" (Matthew 6:33). So as kingdom citizens our priorities are not to better our own lives, but to first seek the Kingdom and by doing so, all that we need will be added to us. Seeking the Kingdom and its righteousness is all about seeking God, seeking His mind, His will and desire, it about desiring to be in the right standing with His ways. And as you do that, everything else will be added to your life.



There's a way that the Kingdom functions which is different from this world, it has a culture and way of being which is different from this world. Hence to change the world for God and expand His Kingdom here on earth we can't conform. If we are like this world, then we can't change it. All those that steered the world in a different direction, were those that refuse to conform. The more Kingdom aware we are, the more we can reflect it. It's more urgent now than ever for believers to become effective in God's Kingdom.

It was easier for Jesus to exercise the will of God here on earth because He knew it, and the same applies to us [John 6:38 says: For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me]. To effectively implement the will of God (His Kingdom) we need to know it. That is because His will expresses the constitution of the Kingdom. The constitution has the right and responsibilities for the citizen. Knowing God's will, plan, purpose and desire will help align one's mind to that of the Kingdom. The best place to start in seeking His will would be to open your Bible.

Knowing the will of God is very important, but more important is to submit to it. Some know the constitution (will) and still ignore it, but as for those that want to be effective in the Kingdom, submission to His will is important. A kingdom is not a democracy, whatever the king says, goes. So once you're aware of the will of God, submit to it. Having a surrendered heart puts you in a position to be used mightily by God. There's no limit to what God can do with a surrendered heart. Submitting to the will of God means to first embrace the mind and ideology of God. A renewed mind makes it possible to know and express the will of God.

The Kingdom isn't about anything else but Jesus, so to effectively expand the Kingdom we need to lay down our agendas. The more believers drop their egos, the more effective we will be in our mission as a Body. Every good citizen seeks the common interest of the nation, and that should be the same for those that belong to the Kingdom of God. Holding on to selfish ideas will hinder the greater impact of the Kingdom through us. Nehemiah lived in the city (in the palace as a cupbearer to the king) but his heart was torn when he heard of how Jerusalem's walls were destroyed. He knew it was the city where God's heart was, so he looked away from luxury and set to be the one God used to rebuild the city's walls (Nehemiah 1:1-5).

If we can just set our heart on the things that God values, we will rebuild our communities, cities and even nations. Learn to value what God values and part of valuing what God values is to value yourself as a citizen of the highest Kingdom. Value people and see them as souls, value the work of God. Part of the reason why Jesus could move around was that there were people that valued His ministry and sowed (took care of His needs, see 8:1-3). Value the work of God and sow into it, your giving isn't just giving, but it is sowing. Whatever you sow is used to reach more lives, and that how lives are changed.

God wants to continue the work that Jesus started, but it is those that are kingdom-minded that will be effective. The pursuit of God will always be more beneficial than the pursuit of worldly things. Your life will always flow in the direction of what preoccupies your mind and heart, so if you're Kingdom-minded you'll turn the world upside down for God (see Acts 17:6). When you're so set on expanding the Kingdom of God, praying "your Kingdom come, thy will be done" in the Lord's prayer, shifts from being a prayer template to a heart's cry. It changes from being a routine prayer to a prayer of petition. It levels up from a memorised verse to a declaration. God wants to continue expanding His Kingdom here on earth, but we are the ones with the responsibility to usher it here.