**Light the Darkness: Week Two**

“Penetrating The Darkness”

The message of the “Kingdom of God is the constant theme of the message Jesus preached and the lessons He taught.

- He came proclaiming the power and presence of the Kingdom as an “entry” of God’s will and rule, here to impact every situation.
  - He applied Kingdom grace and power regarding every need or circumstance: health and healing, sin and forgiveness, human relationships, personal character, human failure, divine provision and His call for us to grow in faith.

- His message was to bring hope and give “abundant life” to all-life at a new dimension – both present and future.
  - He offered the a dual gift of a Kingdom to all who would accept it-
    - to birth us into the Kingdom and
    - the gift of partnership to enable us as “citizens” to extend His Kingdom into all the world.

So His messages at Galilee and in Jerusalem proclaimed His message of a sin-shattering, life transforming possibility.

*The kingdom of God has come upon you (Luke 11:20).*

- Jesus is saying that because He –the King-was/is present, His Kingdom potential to penetrate whatever need exists with His personal grace, forgiveness, healing or peace is also present-that is if and where hearing hearts welcome Him into their lives or situations.

- In short He’s saying, “My world, My Kingdom, the Kingdom of Light, is ready to change your world, Satan’s world, His kingdom (prince of the air), the kingdom of Darkness, if you are willing and will ask.

*Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5).*

- Jesus said to Nicodemus’ sincere question, despite the man’s religious training and experience, introduces His call to a new birth.
- Jesus makes it very clear that His arrival as the Messiah (i.e. God’s anointed King-Savior-Deliver). Participation in the Kingdom requires “birth” into it.
- Secondly, He invites us to receive the Gospel of the Kingdom and thereby accept Him-receiving and welcoming the King’s presence and rule in our lives,

*The kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17).*
The presence of the King is the point. Any place He is welcome, He will enter and work “the Father’s will” – on earth (where we are) as it is in heaven, which is neared “at hand” because God is not distant.

- It’s blessing and transforming power, character and qualities are within the circle of the hearer’s reach or access.
- Our privilege of access is explained when Jesus began to teach about His Church,
  - about He will build it and
  - how he intends us, the same as his early disciples, to confront the workings of evil.
- He expressed His will to give each one who comes to Him, saying:
  - “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”” (Matthew 16:18–19, NKJV)

This is at the heart of spiritual warfare and is foundational to our understanding of what He has called us to do in penetrating the darkness of our world.

The Bible often refers to the struggle of:

- life against death, God’s way (righteousness) against Satan’s ways (unrighteousness- sin and destructive ways), of
- Light against the Darkness.

Jesus’ is calling us to partner with Him as a “citizen of the Kingdom of God.”

Jesus, in giving us (the church) the key, is releasing to us not only access to the key but the authority that comes with the key.

- Illus. of key to your car  You now have access and authority. Your car may sit in the garage unused and we know we cannot drive it without the key. The potential and power can only be activated by the key.
- With my children they were given access to a vehicle. The use of the car was made available as they grew in understanding and responsibility and the privilege was given to them.
- But they were granted the privilege only because they were obedient son and daughters.
- This authority to have a set of keys needed to have a balance of wisdom. However if they got to smart in their thinking, or think they could loan to the car to whoever they wanted, or think do whatever they wanted with the car for their own interests and not the families, that privilege was removed.

- **When Jesus was giving the keys of the Kingdom to His Church, He was offering access to the power of God’s Kingdom and authority over darkness and evil.**
- We must understand the privilege of the keys and the practice of their use; not with our power and authority but with our Lord’s.
Our Lord has provided them and called us to use them, releasing authority to us through the blood of the cross and in His name.

- **Total access has been opened to us through the cross.** We cannot receive anything without the cross: salvation, new birth, forgiveness, and freedom from sin.
- **Now growth, and life occur by the renewing and regenerating power of the Holy Spirit** that brings the possibility of our seeing-understanding and entering into the Kingdom and becoming an active participant in advancing the rule of God’s will.
- **That rule brings a flow of life, grace, forgiveness, and power that will always unfold God’s loving will for all of us and will overthrow the evil workings of the flesh and the devil** that were unleashed upon the earth at “the Fall.”
- If you have any question if you truly have been born into the Kingdom of God.

**The Larger Picture**

Our pursuit of prayer penetrates the darkness and applies the power of the cross in Jesus’ name with Holy Spirit-empowered prayer.

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.” (Matthew 4:23, NKJV)

Passivity or weakness of convictions about prayer is the result of blindness or ignorance of basic truth concerning the Kingdom of God; of how it was originally designed and how it became consigned to ruin by “flesh and the devil.”

- What did the Father intend in the beginning?
- What was upended-overturned by sin’s rebellion?
- What was extended through God’s sending His Son to us?
- What was expended Jesus’ blood and death to redeem and recover all?

**We must all have to established deeper convictions about the power and privilege of Prayer**

**We must all have shaped a “Kingdom mindset.”**

**We must cultivate “a Kingdom kind” of people** or -believers who more than simply are nice people persons who have been born again and are going to heaven someday.

**We must discover there is more than just peace with God and good will toward all men.”**

**We are to go beyond “being saved,”** to go on into the school of discipleship with Jesus, open ourselves to an encounter with the Holy Spirit brought about with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**Be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit for ministry to bring life and light!**
Be filled with the Light which is the Love of God to impact others around us.

When the Kingdom truth about the Kingdom rule is understood not only does our partnership become dynamic but as sons and daughters we learn His works and His ways that allow us to rule through Christ and His cross.

We must understand He has willed us to pray, to “release” His ruling power

First direction: “Be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28).

- They were to spread the rule of God’s Kingdom throughout the earth.
- They lived in the garden of perfection, specific parameters and fellowship with God each day.
- They were to rule the garden.
- They were to spread the Kingdom; they were God’s hands upon the earth
- God gave them choice- free will- without rules there can be no choice
- We all know Adam and Eve opted to push the big red button that said don’t push
- By blindly being deceived by serpent-liar they yielded

Everything about our planet was now broken
- Our relationship with God was severed and man’s spirit died.
- The relationship between man and woman became blame and disunity.
- Rather than extending the Kingdom on earth, man was living by tilling the earth.
- Paradise was destroyed. Confusion, hate, and destruction were now brought by Satan
- Man was to rule the planet but now had forfeited the right humankind’s rule to satan.
- Disobedience brought about a cycle of pain, ruin, confusion, disease and death

Threefold outcome

1. Loss of relationship and rulership
2. Release of ongoing deception, of ruin and all things the kingdom of darkness can introduce was set in motion
3. A spiritual blindness beset the entire race; blinded by selfish desires, deluded by pride and supposed wisdom devoid of understanding and divine revelation, and ignorant submission to the liar.
In the passage of time, forgetfulness of God or disdain for God’s Word and His revelation have brought about the darkness we all experience.

- Human ignorance, pride or unbelief discards the insight that would lead to understanding and recovery, so as a result multitudes fault God.
- If there really is a God why does He permit such darkness, suffering and pain to exist?
- The bottom line is “He doesn’t. The hellishness of the world is are result of the decision Adam and Eve made and ratified by our self will and exercised by a being that hates all that is God or is intended by Him.
- But while this is a result of the rule of Satan on earth, God is not inactive.
- If God were to fully move and quash the rebellion in one mighty act all humankind would be destroyed.
- However He has chosen a recovery for all who open to Him to win and be saved.
- Repentance will bring us to a new life, a new perspective, a new desire to reach the needy and new compassion to bring people to salvation.

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9, NKJV)

God has come as the Son of Man, a second Adam, God with us, the incarnate sinless Savior.

He has come to continue the works of deliverance, forgiveness, and power; here to unmask the Adversary and unchain his prisoners.

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10, NKJV)

“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10, NKJV)

Jesus leads the charge to penetrate the Darkness!

Now the story has changed from “Lost Paradise” to Plan of Redemption.

Kingdom Lost
Kingdom Ruined
Kingdom Come
Kingdom Now

- Ultimately the King will come and establish His rulership once and for all at His coming-the return of Christ.
- But in the meanwhile, He has appointed you and me to fulfill the Father’s will to His Church . . . to you and me.
• Jesus told a parable of the householder who left for a time and promised to return, charging his servants to do business till I come,” which is also a charge for us.
• That “business” in prayer in Jesus’ name can flow with penetrating power that only be released through “prayer that breaks through,” that drives back the darkness, the demonic, disease and deathly syndromes which are everywhere.
• He calls us to be those who move in that dimension of spiritual life and authority.
• It is not enough to just to pray for Jesus’ return but while we wait our assignment is the business of prayer.
• In Luke 19:11-13 Jesus describes the nobleman giving each of his servants three years salary in advance to invest and multiply until he returned
• Today God has given you and me the Holy Spirit who clothes us not only with garments of righteousness through forgiveness but also with a wealth of “currency”- that is, an account to draw on of heaven’s power through our prayer.
• It is to minister with Christ’s authority, as well as His gentile spirit, to break through the strongholds of satanic darkness whether it is entrenched in the soul of a person or steeped in the soul of a nation.
• There are prayer strategies that can penetrate any type of situation. Not every situation is conquered at once; it’s not a skirmish and its over but it is a war

Christ said,

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

(John 14:13, NKJV)

Kingdom Lost
Kingdom Ruined
Kingdom Come

Kingdom NOW?

We are not teaching a theology that says a group of believers at large may bring the Kingdom on its own timing, schedule or its advisement

But we are teaching as Jesus taught,

“‘Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’”

(Luke 12:32, NKJV)

Paul taught us:

“and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...”

(Romans 8:17, NKJV)

To most effectively rise as one who may learn to penetrate the darkness in prayer, let Christ in you” infuse you with the power of the Holy Spirit so you may “reign in life” NOW

Action Points:
Penetrate the darkness through prayer!

**Memorize:**

- “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18, NKJV)

- “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.” (Matthew 18:19, NKJV)

- “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20, NKJV)

**Learn to:**

- Pray Penetrating Prayers that break through the darkness-

- Penetrate the darkness together in the church!