

## Kingdom Lifestyle

TEXT – Matthew 6:33

I think I told you this once – a woman walked up to me a few years ago and handed me a book. She said, “Here, this is you!” The title of the book was “Forever Ruined for the Ordinary”. That, my friends, has been my problem for a long time, and I don’t ever want to lose that problem.

So I have this problem. Maybe you have my problem too, and if you don’t, maybe you should. **Last summer I got wrecked! Actually really wrecked – dislocated – unattached to religion – even Pentecostal ritualism.** I can’t reassemble myself to what I used to be, and, in fact, I don’t want to. I am more than Humpty Dumpty; my problem is that I can’t get enough of Jesus Christ in my life! But it is not just Jesus, it is that He is the King, and as the King, He has the right to govern His Kingdom in me!

Why is that a problem? Because everything I am learning right now has to do with God opening the door of His Word, and some of what I learned in the past didn’t necessarily come from the Word, but from a leadership training, a denominational doctrine, a ceremonial ritual, a cultural prejudice, a traditional theology, a public opinion or popularity poll, a marketing strategy, or a pop psychology – and I learned it in Bible school! Sad! And all I want right now is to hear my Shepherd’s voice and follow Him.

Did you know that God rocks? Did you know that God rocked in a man makes a man rock in God and so submitted to God that he loses his caution? Did you know that when we seek first the Kingdom of God, that God can so fill a man with His Spirit that he can laugh and believe in the face of a thousand difficulties? You see, all you dear people, when you seek first His Kingdom, Jesus is all you need.

So I set that course about a year ago, and I got to tell you that when the Master teaches you about His Kingdom, I learned more in the last six months than I have learned in many years of ministry. **He loves to reveal what we call mysteries and I love to receive them! How about you?**

There is a mystery in our relationship with God that I would like to speak to you about today. It really is a great part of living the resurrection life that

Jesus Christ purchased for us. It is a high and holy privilege, but few ever really get there. **Have you ever been to the place that you feel stunned by the mystery of what He is doing in your life?** Do you ever wonder about the things that God does that seem so ... “outside of the box?” Like, “why? Or “how?” Or even like, “Wow!” Or – “why me?”

**Here is a challenge for you – If you understand everything that God is doing in your Christian life, you may have an inferior Christian life! You also have reduced God to your size! Don't be mad, be challenged! Our Lord Jesus is bigger than all we ask of think.**

Actually what you don't know is meant to keep you keeping on – never giving up or letting go – always seeking more and more. What you don't know yet, and are seeking for more of the Lord, is really the course of faith that you have chosen for your life. You get to discover things. Here is one to meditate on – **Faith does not deny a problem exists, it just denies that problem a place of influence. Because of Jesus, faith refuses to dictate to us our focus on the problem without the solution, our bad moods, our wrong values and our wrong priorities.**

**One of the things I am heavily challenged about is not all of Christian culture is Kingdom culture!** So much of what we call Christianity has little or nothing to do with our personal preparation to inherit the Kingdom of God. And so we want to live out our lives our way without really considering Jesus' way! And Jesus says, “Seek first the Kingdom of God .”

Do you know what I am talking about? What works in a church here or there is okay, but is it more “approved” by others without considering what God desires for us? **If that rattles you a little, and you are wondering why we are saying this, it is because everyone of you are here by God's beckoning and it is He who stirred a little unrest and dissatisfaction for more and to be different in you.** The difference I am referring to is about making Jesus King and for this church to be governed, controlled, and led by the Holy Spirit Whom He sent. I want to live every day with His breath making us truly alive! **I don't want to talk about the Kingdom of God, I want to live in the Kingdom of God.**

There is something about that – listen – this is why I am in the process of getting wrecked – there is something about a people that live in the Kingdom that when the Lord lifts the veil, their influence is transferable.

**How many of you think Sheboygan needs a little Kingdom transfer?**

This is amazing to me – everyone has planted in them an inbuilt hunger for Jesus, but others can't seem to recognize it until they see it in you! **Right now I want to be ruled by a perfect Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God my Father!**

I started to go through the New Testament about all the encounters Jesus had with people, and how many of them were characterized by one common denominator – He told them to RISE! Rise out of your circumstances – take up your bed and walk – Lazarus come forth – Tabitha rise -- follow Me (get out of the boat) – go heal the sick, cleanse the leper, cast out demons, raise the dead! **In other words, rise out of mundane, boring, predictable, every day routine, and pass on your resurrection anointing to others that you got from Me so that they also can be free!**

ILLUST – Many of you have heard me share about my mentor pastor. I came to him one day, and said, “Pastor, you talk like you just had lunch with Jesus.” He looked at me and smiled, and then he said, **“Jon, just remember there is more to know about Him than just being the forgiver, He also wants to be your very best friend.”** And I began to understand.

The underlying tone of it all was, “Freely you have received, now freely give out to others what I gave to you.” It took me too long to realize why Jesus came – not just to save us – Jesus came to reveal the heart of the Father. He came to a planet of orphans to reveal they could be adopted into the Father's family. He came to rescue the outcast, the sin-sick, the addicted, the selfish, the possessed and said, “Let Me – Jesus – be the only possession you can boast of.”

And here is the challenge – when that happens – what He told us to do that we KNOW WE CAN'T DO, becomes possible. Because the Kingdom of God is within us. So I am challenged today – I don't want to stand in front of Jesus one day and hear Him say, *“Why didn't you embrace and seek the Kingdom so that you could realize your potential? Why didn't you do what is absolutely impossible without the empowering Presence of the Spirit of God?”* **So I am wrecked for settling for the ordinary!**

No wonder He told us to, “seek first” – He knew that to embrace the Kingdom is to discover the reason He bled, died and rose again. I believe

in a coming global move of God, where He will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. **And that kind of revelation changes a person. It marks you for life! Your passions will change. Your life callings will shift. Your daily life will be different. You will become sensitive to many things others don't even consider. You will find it increasingly difficult to know how to live in the flesh and walk in the Spirit at the same time and your best experiences will become those in which you worship God the most!**

I am praying as I preach this, that the Holy Spirit is stirring something in you – that it is possible to pursue God – fellow hungry one – into the depths and intimacy of the Kingdom of God. I believe our personal desires brought together “as one accord” is the primary door opener, so to speak, of the things of the Kingdom of God in the here and now.

**SAY THIS WITH ME ~~ I have tasted Him, there is nowhere else to go but deeper into Him. (3x)**

Now – I have something that could enlarge your understanding of Jesus, your Lord. Jesus asks us to do many things we think are impossible for us to do. **The reason we could feel that way is because we forget that when Jesus asks us to do something, it is because when He spoke it to you, it became possible for you!** Did you get that? Did you? (repeat)

We hear things like, “Nothing is impossible with God”. Let’s look at this statement with a Kingdom perspective. The word “nothing” is actually two words – NO and THING. “Thing” is the Greek word rhema = the freshly spoken word of God. So what this is saying is that, “No freshly spoken word from God’s heart to your heart will be impossible to fulfill.” **Give God some praise right now! Do you want to go deeper?**

**The word “impossible” is properly defined as “without ability”. So what this is actually saying is that no freshly spoken word from God’s heart to your heart will ever come to you that does not contain its own ability to perform itself. That is Kingdom living and that is what Jesus brought to us in Himself! No wonder He said, “If you have seen Me you have seen the Father.**

I find these kind nuggets in the scriptures, and then something inside of me whispers, “how long have I missed it?” I am not going to miss it anymore! I got wrecked with religion – even Pentecostal religion -- because I realized that when the Lord gives a command, He enables what He commands. It’s like the old TV commercial that says, “This changes everything!” No wonder Jesus says, “Seek first the Kingdom of God ...”.

Think about this – much of the Law is impossible for the flesh to consistently fulfill. So grace comes along. Grace = the supernatural ability to become and do more than I presently can within the plan and purpose of God. **So in actuality, grace increases our responsibility not decreases it!** So how do we get a hold of that kind of grace? We let Jesus be the King and we His servants in the Kingdom. And His enablement makes the standard higher because the enablement of grace makes it doable.

So in His commands is the release of His Presence to make it possible. I am recently fascinated with the story of the woman who said, “If I can touch the hem of His garment, I could be healed.” There is no teaching on the garment anointing or the shadow anointing or the sweat band anointing, but by the time you get to the end of Mark 6, you find that anyone who touched Jesus clothing was healed. Is it possible to have so much of Jesus, the King, in you, that it starts to ooze out of your clothes? Is it possible to be so attached to the Holy Spirit that you have access, and healing becomes the bread you feed on?

### **ILLUST – The story of throwing an oil soaked Kleenex at Mary Ames**

She believed! That’s all it took! It was recognizing the unseen upon the seen. And it changed her reality! She positioned herself for a blessing! Is that the common practice of those who live in the Kingdom of God?

You remember when Jesus stilled the storm. Actually the peace that was in Him was released to become the reality around Him. That wrecks me! I don’t have to be defeated – I can allow the peace of the Kingdom to be released upon my storms of life and that peace can be the reality around me. Hallelujah!

Here is something else that wrecks me – the ability we are talking about in the Kingdom of God is UNLIMITED! No one has ever tapped into its full

potential. But I am challenged to try! I have a principle for you that I am hoping you will join me as a wrecked one ~~

**All of the teachings we have on the Holy Spirit being IN YOU are meant to show us how to change our world WITHIN. But when the Holy Spirit rests upon you it is to change the world AROUND YOU.**

Why am I telling you these things? Because we are about to see the greatest move of the Holy Spirit upon this world that we have ever seen. But it will not be recognized unless you are a Kingdom seeker. Unless you are living by the Kingdom of God. Your shadow can only release what overshadows you. The Kingdom of God is a Presence-based culture! It is so wonderful that you can't go further without wanting more!

Look at the signs of the times – look at the news. We are rapidly approaching a time of a great showdown between darkness and light. In the Presence of God there are no shadows – He is everywhere. Here is a Bible nugget for you guys -- Ezekiel 39:29 -- "And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," says the Lord God." NKJV. Hey, Kingdom seekers, when He pours out His Spirit in this church, you are receiving the face of God! That's what Moses wanted, but we get to see it!

I will have much more to say about this in the near future – we need to embrace the King and the Kingdom of God. Today we have looked at only a brief coming attractions. So I want to close with this – please listen with an open heart ~~

The call of King Jesus has echoed down through the centuries – “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness – it is a call that is for those who are willing to come out of denominationalism, out of dead tradition, out of formal ritual ... out of religion and follow the King's direction according to His Kingdom. **If that is you, stand up right now!**

It requires us to turn away from doubt, disobedience, disregard, defiance, legalism and liberalism, pride and prejudice, fear and failure and walk through the open door into a total love relationship with the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

The call is getting louder and louder – it cannot be silenced – it is growing as more and more Christian people are saying, “I will follow Him – I will do

whatever He tells me to do – He is the King and what I really need – **this hunger in me is a need for more of the Kingdom of God.”**

Friends, there is so much more. He said we would do greater works, but we can't do them until we do the same works first – His way. What you may be feeling right now – this hunger for more – is a summons from God to demonstrate the reality of His world to this world. So I am wrecked – I can't live without more and more of Jesus Christ. I go to bed with it and get up with it. And I feel it is an urgent call by the Holy Spirit to all of us. Can we pursue the Kingdom of God together?

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