



desert breeze community church

Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

April 5, 2009

Jesusology

"God's Rule!"

Mark 4:21-34

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

There hasn't been much explanation of the Kingdom of God until chapter four. In chapter four there is a series of metaphors, stories, parables giving us insight into this very important and yet mysterious idea of the Kingdom of God.

Mark 4:21-34

What is the Kingdom of God? (Vv21-22)

1) It is a light that reveals my lostness and dispels this world's darkness. (John8:12; Matt. 5:14-16; 1 John 1:5-9; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:14; John 3:19)

2) It reclaims what man has lost through sin (darkness) and restores God's rule and reign (light). (Matt. 6:10, 33; 11:12; 16:19; Rom. 14:17)

"The Kingdom of God is the means for the renewal of the entire world and all the dimensions of life. From the throne of Jesus Christ flows new life and power such that no disease, decay, poverty, blemish or pain can stand before it." – Tim Keller

How Does the Kingdom of God Operate (Work)? (Vv23-29)

It is paradoxical in its operation and even a mystery.

1) You enter into it not by being big, but by being small (humility). (v23) "Having ears to hear involves surrender of proud self-reliance and submission to God (cf. Isa. 6:10; 43:8; 44:18)." - ESV Study Bible (Matt. 5:3-10)

2) It grows not by getting, but by giving (application). (vv24-25) (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:6; Pro. 11:24-25)

3) It is both present and future (already, but not yet). (vv26-29) (Matt. 25 Parable of the Ten Virgins, Parable of Talents, The story of the Sheep and Goats) "Already" (Luke 17:17-21; Matt.12:28) and "not yet" (Mt.6:10; 25:34)

What is the Focal Point of the Kingdom of God? (vv30-34)

"The nesting of birds in the shadow of the grown bush points to divine blessing ([Judg. 9:8-15](#); [Ps. 91:1-2](#); [Ezek. 17:22-24](#))" - ESV Study Bible. (Matt. 17:20; 10:8; 6:10, 33).

1) Its not just about restoring me, but the world. (John 3:16-17)

2) Its not about my agenda, but God's agenda. (Mark 14:36; Matt. 7:21; Ps. 40:8)

3) It begins in obscurity culminating in God's Glory. (1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 4:6; 3:18; Rev. 4:11)

"Thank you for giving faithfully, generously and joyfully your Time, Talents and Treasure (Along with DYTm) as we together extend the Kingdom of God by kicking down the gates of hell and setting the captives free!!!"

April 10 **"Relentless Love"** Good Friday
(6:30 & 8PM @ Church Offices)

April 12 **RESURRECTION** Easter Sunday
"How It Changes Everything!"
(1 Cor. 15:1-17, 30-32)
(8, 9:30, & 11AM @ O'Conner HS)



Growing

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1) In Mark 1:15 what does Jesus say about the Kingdom of God? There hasn't been much explanation of the KofG until chapter four. What three metaphors does Jesus use in verses 21-34 to describe the KofG?

2) Why does Jesus compare the KofG to a lamp? What did Jesus say would be ridiculous? Why? (v21) What is the KofG? What are some ways you have seen the KofG reclaim what man has lost restoring God's rule?

3) The KofG is paradoxical and even a mystery in its operation. How do you enter into the KofG and how does it grow? How is the KofG both present (already) (Lk. 17:17-21; Mt.12:28) and future (not yet) (Mt.6:10; 25:34)? How does this balanced perspective avoid either over-optimism or over pessimism in ministry?

4) Like a mustard seed the KofG begins small and unnoticed, but gradually has remarkable growth bringing divine blessing. What is the focal point of the KofG? What happens when we make the KofG about us rather than God?

5) How are we doing as a church in being a lamp on a stand, a growing seed and a mustard seed? How does the giving of our time, talents and treasure (along with DYTm) extend the KofG? Pray Matt. 6:10 for DB as we kick down the gates of hell and set captives free!