



## Becoming A Kingdom Builder

### Message 1: Christ, The King of The Kingdom

Sunday September 17, 2006

#### Introduction

Why become a Kingdom Builder?

Matthew 6:33

<sup>33</sup> Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.

Pursuing the Kingdom of God and doing what is right in God's eyes must be top priority in all our earthly activity.

We must live for the purposes of the Kingdom.

We must work for the establishing and expansion of the Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 3:6,9-11

<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. <sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

We see several important things here:

- Kingdom Building is about building people "... you are God's building" (Vs 9).
- Kingdom Building is about partnership, about working together (Vs 6,9,10).
- God uses one man to sow, another man to water and yet another man to reap. God uses one man to lay the foundation and another man to build on it, and yet another man to take it further. Each one's work, regardless of what it is, is equally important. Everyone is equally important.
- Kingdom Building is about Christ (Vs 11). Christ is the foundation, the starting point.

#### Our Relationship with the King is of Prime Importance

1 Corinthians 3:11

<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

In Kingdom Building, we must always remember that Christ is the Foundation, the Head and the Pre-eminent One.

To be a Kingdom Builder—our relationship with the King is absolutely important. Everything begins with Him.

Too many of us ministers have become preoccupied with our relationship with a 'denomination,' a 'network of ministers,' a 'spiritual covering,' a 'ministerial association,' or a 'fellowship of ministers,' while neglecting something of far greater importance—the depth of our personal relationship with the King.

No 'denomination,' 'network of ministers,' 'spiritual covering,' 'ministerial association,' or 'fellowship of ministers' can replace our personal relationship with the King.



While it is important to have a healthy relationship with fellow ministers, what really qualifies us to be a Kingdom Builder is our relationship with the King.

Colossians 1:16–18

<sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

In Kingdom Building, we must remember that all things are by Him, for Him and through Him. And in all things He must be pre-eminent, the number One.

If Christ is not pre-eminent in what we do, then the work we do cannot be considered building Christ's Kingdom.

If at the end of my preaching, people get more excited about me than with God and His Word, then my preaching has not served in truly building the Kingdom. I have not served as a Kingdom Builder.

### **The Kingdom is Neither Mine nor Yours but His**

Matthew 6:10

<sup>10</sup> Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

This is His Kingdom. It is not about 'my ministry,' 'my church,' 'your ministry,' or 'your church.' All that we have and all that we do is His! Together we are building His Kingdom.

Our desire should be to see His Kingdom come. Too many of us are so caught up in seeing "my ministry come" and this is absolutely unhealthy!

We are here to do what He wants done on the earth. God in heaven expresses His will. He looks to His people on earth to execute it.

### **We Must Seek to Glorify God Alone**

Matthew 6:13b

<sup>13</sup> ...For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

All of the glory belongs to God alone.

As Kingdom Builders our purpose is clear, that is to glorify God alone. We should not desire any glory—not even a small portion of the glory for ourselves.

John 7:18

<sup>18</sup> He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

It is only when we truly seek to glorify God, will our hearts be pure and no unrighteousness be found in us.



Too often, our hearts are tainted with a mixture of giving most of the glory to God, but desiring a part of the glory for ourselves. We need to move away from this to a place where we give all of the glory to the Lord.

Isaiah 42:8

<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images.

God is a Jealous God, in that He will not tolerate His glory being given to anyone else (Exodus 20:5; Exodus 34:14). Why is it then that we, ministers of His, do not hesitate to draw attention to ourselves, as though it was because of our own power, our prayer or our virtue that wonderful things happen? Our words, our slick advertising, our body language, our ministry reports and our testimonies are all geared to having the eyes of people fixed on us. We feel threatened if people look elsewhere even for a moment! This is unlike Peter and John who when the lame man was healed spoke to the crowds and said, "...Why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" (Acts 3:12). They then pointed people to the living God and His Son Jesus Christ.

John 5:41

<sup>41</sup> I do not receive honor from men.

We need to come to a place before God, where we will not desire honor from men. Our heart must be totally void of any desire for praise from man. This is what makes a true Kingdom Builder.

John 8:54a

<sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, my honor is nothing ...

Honor that is self-bestowed is not true honor and is devoid of any value.

John 5:44

<sup>44</sup> How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

As Kingdom builders we need to come to a place where we no longer desire honor from man, but desire only the honor from God. When we live only for the applause of heaven, not desiring the accolades of men, it is then that we are truly seeking to glorify God.

It was the Pharisees and hypocrites who did their works to be seen of men, thereby receiving the praises of men as their reward. Jesus warned us against such motives, instructing us to choose instead to be seen by God and receiving our reward from God above (Matthew 6:1–6; Matthew 23:5).

John 12:42,43

<sup>42</sup> Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

The real test of where our heart is with regard to the praises of men and commendation from God lies in what we choose to do in situations where we risk losing out on acceptance by man and may face rejection instead. Will we, in such situations, still choose the "praise of God" instead of the "praise of men?"

Galatians 1:10



<sup>10</sup> For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

You cannot be a servant of God if you become a pleaser of men.

1 Thessalonians 2:4–6a

<sup>4</sup> But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. <sup>6</sup> Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others ...

The motivation of our heart as we preach/teach/minister should always be to please God and not men. If what we do is angled in such a way that we get glory from man, then the motivation of our heart is not pure.

Psalms 115:1

<sup>1</sup> Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.

This is a prayer that we can pray often that will help keep our heart pure and set in the right direction.

### **Our Authority on the Earth is Dependent on Our Submission to the King**

Our authority on the earth is effective only to the extent that we are in submission to the King.

James 4:7

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

There were two trees in the Garden. By eating of one tree, man was empowered to live a long life. By not eating of the other tree, man was empowered to exercise dominion on the earth. The day he ate of the tree that he was not supposed to eat of, he lost his dominion on the earth.

Our obedience and submission to God are keys to Kingdom authority.

### **Let Us Not Glory in Man**

1 Corinthians 3:21

<sup>21</sup> Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours ...

1 Corinthians 4:6

<sup>6</sup> Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

While we must respect and honor those in Christian leadership, we must be careful not to become “puffed up on behalf of one against another.”

It is when we elevate man, or an individual, beyond his rightful place that we begin to produce divisions and schisms in the Kingdom. We then cease to be Kingdom Builders and instead become Kingdom Dividers.



When you elevate yourself—thinking that things are happening because of you or what you are doing, you are glorying in man.

When you elevate yourself—thinking that you are more spiritual, more sensitive to God, more prayerful, more anointed than the other, you are glorying in man.

### We are Accountable to the Lord Who Will Judge All Things

1 Corinthians 4:3–5

<sup>3</sup> But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup> For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

2 Corinthians 5:9–11

<sup>9</sup> Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. <sup>11</sup> Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

While it is important to be accountable to those whom the Lord has placed around us, it is even more important to be accountable to God. In the end, we are accountable to the Lord who will judge all things.

Accountability is, simply put, being:

- (1) True to God.
- (2) True to ourselves.
- (3) True to our family.
- (4) True to those we serve and
- (5) True to those who watch over our lives.

If we fail in the first two, then it is very likely that we will not hesitate in failing in the other three.

We will be judged, not by the magnitude of what we accomplished, but for the motives with which we did them (1 Corinthians 4:5).

We will be judged not for the greatness of the exploits we have done, but for our obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 7:21–23).

We will be judged not by the significance of our calling or gifting, but for the faithfulness with which we carried them out (Matthew 25:21).

Revelation 3:1,2

<sup>1</sup> And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

It is possible to have a reputation among men that we are "alive," but be found "dead" in God's estimation.



It is possible to be considered 'anointed' among men, but have God disappointed with us.

Our desire should be that our work and ministry be perfect before God.

### The Heart of a Kingdom Builder

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that is totally devoted to Christ the King.

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that seeks to glorify Christ alone.

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that does not receive honor from man.

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that does not glory in man.

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that is pure in its motives.

Pray that God would create in you the heart of a Kingdom builder. This is where all Kingdom building begins. "Lord, give me the heart of a Kingdom builder."



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