

Matthew 6:31-33, NIV – (31) *So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’* (32) *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.* (33) *But seek first his kingdom [God’s rule in my life] and his righteousness [God’s way of doing things], and all these things will be given to you as well.*

- Simply spending time with God fundamentally changes our thinking and our assumptions and our values

#### 4. WHAT ARE SOME VALUES CAUGHT BY COMMUNING WITH THE KING?

- a) Servanthood
- b) Mercy
- c) Forgiveness
- d) Transparency
- e) Encouragement
- f) Discipleship
- g) Evangelism
- h) Integrity

#### 5. MOVING INTO COMMUNION WITH OTHERS

- Church is entering into the same degree of communion with others, that I have with God, and entering into the same degree of commitment toward others, that I have toward God

Acts 2:42-43, NIV – “*They devoted [wholeheartedly committed] themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship [kingdom community], to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe ...*”

#### SUMMARY

- To develop a church vision, with don’t start with church – we start with God
- To develop a Kingdom Vision, we don’t start with a Kingdom Community – we start with the King
- One of our goals this year, is to learn together how to truly commune with the king, because only then, can we truly be a community of the kingdom
- Then we’ll be able to know God, and make Him known

2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV – “*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*”

# DEVELOPING OUR CHURCH VISION

## Part 4 – Empowered By Kingdom Values

David Hibbert – June 06, 2004

### FOUR QUESTIONS THAT HELP TO BIND US TOGETHER

#### Who are we?

- Answer: We have a common identity – we are a kingdom people
- We are the people of the King, created in the image and likeness of the King

#### Why are we here?

- Answer: We have a common purpose – we are to reflect the kingdom on earth
- We are here to be a domain or realm of the rule of the King

#### What are we to do?

- Answer: We have a common mission – we are to extend the kingdom rule
- We are to model heaven on earth in Christian community, so that others would be drawn into that community with us, and with God

#### How are we to do it?

- Answer: We have common values – we are to do the King’s work, the King’s way
- We are to embrace the values of the kingdom, and express them in every aspect of life

### EMBRACING KINGDOM VALUES

#### 1. Kingdom Values Are Contrary To Earthly Values

##### a) You have to go down to go up

Luke 1:52, NIV – “*He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.*”

##### b) The weak are the strong

2 Corinthians 12:10, NIV – “*That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*”

**c) The small are the great**

Luke 9:48, NIV – “Then he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all – he is the greatest.’”

**d) The natural mind must submit to the spiritual mind**

Romans 8:6, KJV – “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

**e) The path to greatness is the path to humility**

Matthew 18:4, NIV – “Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

**f) The path to rulership is the path of servanthood**

Mark 9:35, NIV – “Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.’”

**g) The path to life is the path to death**

Matthew 16:25, NIV – “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”

**2. Kingdom Values Empower People**

Romans 12:2, NIV – “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve [test by living it, and thus proving the rightness and wisdom of] what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV – “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

2 Timothy 3:5, NIV – “having a form of godliness but denying its power [i.e. the power of godliness].”

- The Holy Spirit doesn’t work at our conduct level, he works at our desire level – He changes our hearts and our desires
- He turns our “have to’s into our “want to’s”

Philippians 2:13, NIV – “For it is God who works in you to will [desire] and to act according to his good purpose.”

**3. HOW DO WE GAIN KINGDOM VALUES?**

**a) Gain Kingdom Values Through Our Parents’ Teaching And Modeling**

Deuteronomy 6:6-9, NIV – (6) *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. (7) Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (8) Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. (9) Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

- Unfortunately, once we’ve become adults, we don’t seem as able to catch kingdom values as well as children; we become set in our ways, and we develop strongholds of thoughts and behaviours in our lives, which are resistant to embracing kingdom values

**b) Gain Kingdom Values Through Hardship And Crisis**

- Hardship has an incredible ability to bring discipline and transform values

Hebrews 12:7, NIV – “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?”

- Often, without the right support from others, we very quickly slide back into our former condition, and re-embrace our old values

**c) Gain Kingdom Values By Communing With The King**

- The most effective way to learn Kingdom values, is by just spending time with the King

Acts 4:13, NIV – “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”