

Philippians 2:5-8, NIV – (5) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (7) but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross!

2 Corinthians 8:9, NIV – For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor; so that you through his poverty might become rich.

### 3. Jesus' Primary Concern Was Mending Relationship, Not Correction – Luke 15:11-24

### 4. Jesus Directly Confronted The Strongholds Behind Deception And Separation – Mark 5:1-14

Acts 10:38, NIV – How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Luke 11:20, NIV – If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

- Instead of trying to beat demons **OUT**, maybe our focus should be on getting the kingdom **IN**, don't try to get the darkness out, just turn on the light, don't try to fight the lies, just get the truth in, and lies have to run

### APPLICATION

- To properly minister the kingdom, we must the big picture in view
- We must understand Jesus' heart, and His focus
- And we must have Jesus' heart, and His focus
- If you don't have it, you are a dangerous threat to the Kingdom
- If you have it, then God will be pleased to give you more and more and more of the Kingdom

Luke 12:31-32, NIV – (31) But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. (32) Do not be afraid ... for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

## EXPERIENCING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

### # 4 – Understanding How Jesus Ministered The Kingdom

David Hibbert - February 12, 2006

### FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES AS GOD'S KINGDOM COMES

1. **The Foundational Premise: The Kingdom Is To Come **IN** Us And **THROUGH** Us**
2. **The Foundational Question: Will We Commit To Doing This?**
3. **The Foundational Reality: It Is Warfare!**

Matthew 11:12, NASB - And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.

Ephesians 6:12, NIV - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

4. **The Foundational Problem: We Can Easily Lose Our Focus**
5. **The Foundational Solution: Remember The Bigger Picture**

### WHAT IS THE BIG PICTURE?

#### 1. It's About Restoring People Out Of Their Brokenness

Luke 4:18-19, NIV – (18) “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, (19) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (20) Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, (21) and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

#### 2. It's About Restoring People To The Father Through Christ

Ephesians 1: 3-10, NIV – (3) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (4) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love (5) he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – (6) to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (7) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (8) that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. (9) And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, (10) to be put into

effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment -- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

### 3. It's About Restoring People Into The Full Experience Of The Kingdom Of God

Colossians 1:13-14, NIV – (13) For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

#### HOW WE LOST OUR WAY

Matthew 9:36, NIV – When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

#### 1. What Satan Did To God's People

##### a) Satan Induced Doubt Through Questioning

Genesis 3:1-3, NIV – (1) Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (2) The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, (3) but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

James 1:6-8, NIV – (6) But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (7) That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

##### b) Satan Enticed Disobedience Through Promising Independence

Genesis 3:4-5, NIV – (4) “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. (5) “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

##### c) Satan Brought Darkness Into The Intimacy Hole In Our Heart

Genesis 3:7-10, NIV – (7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (8) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (9) But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” (10) He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

#### 2. The Consequences To God's People

##### a) They Were Separated From God, So Their Right To Appeal To God's Authority Was Blocked

Isaiah 59:2, NIV – But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

##### b) They Were Separated From Each Other

Genesis 3:12, NIV – The man said, “The woman you put here with me -- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

##### c) They Were Distorted In God's Image In Them

Genesis 6:5, NIV – The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

#### HOW JESUS RESTORED WHAT WAS LOST

Galatians 4:4, CEV – But when the time was right, God sent his Son ...

#### 1. Jesus Spoke The Truth As Invitation, Not As Condemnation

##### a) Jesus Spoke The Truth To Set People Free

Matthew 5:18, NIV - I tell you the truth ... (78 times in the gospels)

John 14:6, NIV – Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 8:32, NIV - Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

##### b) Jesus Spoke The Truth As An Invitation To Life

##### c) Jesus Invited The Samaritan Woman To Life – John 4:3-26

#### 2. Jesus Used His Authority To Reconcile, Not Separate

Matthew 28:18, NIV – Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Ephesians 2:13-17, NIV – (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. (14) For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, (15) by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, (16) and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (17) He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.