

Compelling Compassion

Mat 9:35-38 NLT

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Mar 1:15 NLT

"The time promised by God has come at last!" He announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

Luk 4:43 NLT

But He replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent."

Luk 16:16 NLT

"Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in."

What is the good news?

- The kingdom has come!!! (this in context of Israel waiting for the Messiah to come and establish His kingdom, releasing Israel from Roman rule)
- Jesus is the King of the Kingdom.... Therefore this is a good kingdom with the well-being of it's citizens in mind.... It is a kingdom of "righteousness, peace and joy".
- Freedom from the bondage and results of sin... where humans can be free from addictions, lust, anger, bitterness and pride... where the god of this age no longer has control and the King of the Kingdom rules and reigns!
- Deliverance and healing for the whole man. Where your past can no longer hold you, your present is fulfilling and your future is bright!
- A new world order, with a different government structure, different laws, different promises and privileges
- A kingdom where there is instruction and help to be godly parents, spouses and citizens. Where there is instruction on financial prosperity, healthy living, overcoming fears, walking in faith, living victoriously, overcoming trials, and finding your destiny and fulfilling it!
- This is a kingdom of light not darkness, because Jesus IS the light!
- This is a kingdom of THE PRESENT KING, not just the COMING KING!!!

I have proven the reality of this kingdom! My life is changed, my way is clear and my future is set. I know my destiny and I am confident about why I am here! I was fatherless but Jesus became my father! I was without direction... but Jesus showed me the way to go! I was addicted to drugs, sex, alcohol, attention and the need for approval... Jesus delivered me from all of them and gave me much better things to control my life! Christ and His kingdom taught me how to be a good

citizen, how to be a good husband and father, how to live life to the fullest that I can! And the good news is He is still teaching me!!!

I know my gifts, I know my way, I know who I am and I know where I'm going! I'm not lost, I'm found, I'm not confused or wandering, my way is set and my path is clear! I am an overcomer, I can endure trials and hardships, I am prosperous and secure! Though I am sick I am healed, though I am human I touch Divinity!

The good news of the kingdom is that I am no longer judged, my pardon has been granted! I don't fear future judgment because I am now considered righteous. There is a place for me in the new heaven and the new earth, where I will rule and reign with Jesus.

This IS the good news of the kingdom!!!!

Some think that the good news of the kingdom is "Jesus saves"... this is true... but it is not all the good news of the kingdom.

Jesus saves is only one part of the good news.... Many think that the message "Jesus saves" is the starting point, that it must be told first, then everything else will follow.

- I'm not sure that is correct....
 - It seems that many times Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons and did other miracles before He even talked about the kingdom.
 - When He does talk about the kingdom, including the famous Sermon on the Mount, we see Him talking about the benefits of the kingdom, life in the kingdom, the ways of the kingdom, attitudes in the kingdom, basic life principles of the kingdom that is not of this world.
 - You don't often hear Him talking about how to get into the kingdom first.... He usually waits until people are convinced there is a kingdom and then He says things like "I am the Door", "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life", "unless you are born of water and the Spirit you cannot enter the kingdom of God"

I believe God has chosen to reveal Himself to mankind on two levels....

General Revelation

- Everyone has some sort of knowledge of God, that there is a God, a Creator, a Divine Being
- Most in this category would accept that Jesus was a man of God, a great teacher, a prophet, one of God's messengers
- They would not see him as the Son of God or as the Only Way of salvation

Specific or Special Revelation

- This is where, usually after walking with a Christ follower that is already in the kingdom and seeing the value and benefits of the kingdom, decides that they want to be part of it and they are now open to the message of "the Messiah", the Anointed One, The Christ,

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36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- What was this compassion that the Lord had? Whatever it was, it was the driving force that caused Him to be willing to sacrifice His lifein life AND in death.
- This compassion moved him to action... to sacrifice....to obedience..... to pay the price!!
- This compassion caused Jesus to see humanity as "sheep without a shepherd".....
- This compassion compelled Jesus to say "yes Lord"!!
- There is something mystical about the level of compassion that compelled Jesus to action. There is something of it that smells of God, that is not concocted by man's will or commitment.
 - This compassion is the old fashioned "passion or burden for lost souls"
- How do we experience this type of compassion??

37 He said to His disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. 38 So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields."

Tell story of moving to Thunder Bay out of obedience to the Spirit of God and then shortly after arriving being up on Mt. McKay...the lights and intercession.

Tell story of walking the streets of Thunder Bay hour after hour seeking God for direction and praying for the people.

Tell story of 3 day fasting/prayer retreat...explain how you do one...what you take (journal, notebook, Bible), schedule (no watch).....

- In the middle of the clear night, stars out... felt so small, so vulnerable, seemed that the task was so huge, so overwhelming... cried out to God.... "you have to help me, you must go before me or I will fail, I must have Your Presence... or I will die!!"

Something happened in all of that fasting, prayer, waiting on God and interceding for the people of Thunder Bay

- I experienced that "spiritual compassion" that can only come from God. That is originated and generated in the power of the Holy Spirit. You can't explain it and you can't deny it.
- This compassion compelled me. This compassion caused me to give my life to the cause of reaching the people of Thunder Bay. This compassion caused me to tell the good news of the kingdom with abandon, willing to sacrifice finances, time, talent and sometimes reputation in order to see "sheep without a shepherd", slaves in the kingdom of darkness,

experience the revolutionizing rule of God, to see them walking in the light and safe within the boundaries of the kingdom of God!

Where do we start?

Obedience to prayer and intercession.....

- Fasting and prayer for the Capital Region
- Prayer walks
- Prayer meetings

Educate ourselves

- What are the demographics of our city?
- What are the needs in the city? Not just with the poor, but with other people groups, social needs, family needs

Obedience to go

- Obedience requires faith! It is impossible to obey without stepping out in faith.
- Paul said “without faith it is impossible to please Him”... why?
- Because without faith we won’t be motivated to do anything
 - Without faith we will be filled with fear
 - Without faith we won’t see the desired outcomes
 - Without faith we aren’t even sure if God really sees, cares or has any involvement in what we are doing.
 - Without faith we won’t be willing to sacrifice
 - It will be like a dead religion... just going through the motions of things that don’t require sacrifice.

Mat 28:19 NLT

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Mat 24:14 NLT

And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

- Across the street across the world.....
- Get to know our neighbours
- Get involved in the community
- Invite co-workers and classmates, neighbours and friends into our home