

Most of us will never travel across the world, or live in a foreign country for decades at a time, but we are all called to be ambassadors in the Kingdom of Heaven. We are all foreigners, because our citizenship, our loyalty is to another King and another Kingdom. We have an allegiance to an eternal reality, one that is now and not quite yet.

I. A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE

- A. What is the Gospel? I know what we think we know... but I want us to rethink about the very foundation of our faith. When Jesus was here he mostly preached about the kingdom. He didn't send His disciples out to preach about the cross and resurrection, but He sent them out to declare another Kingdom... another reality.

Matthew 10

5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

- B. Jesus is a real King of a real Kingdom. Our message is really that. Healing, life, cleansing and deliverance are all early evidence of the Kingdom of Heaven breaking into the earth. The message is simple, and a demonstration is required.

2 Corinthians 2

And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- C. The gospel requires a demonstration. Our message is that a real King came, and that He is coming again to reign in the earth. This is truth. And the truth always sets us free.
- D. This is a holy takeover, a revolution. Jesus is coming to redeem the entire earth. Not just our hearts, but all creation. He's coming to redeem nations. He's coming to redeem regions. The land groans waiting for the sons of man to be revealed.

Romans 8

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- E. Let's raise our eyes a bit and look beyond the things that are passing away, to the things that will never fade. Let's get a longer view. We can get so consumed with the what's right in front of us that we forget who we are and who we serve.

- F. To be a Christian... to be a radical Christian... to be an obedient Christian, we MUST have a Kingdom mindset. To obey in costly situations, we must have an eternal mindset. To live unoffended before God and men, we must have an eternal mindset.
- G. Jesus died alone, shrouded in public shame. And yet the word, says:

Hebrews 12

12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- H. The joy set before Him was this, the reconciliation of all creation to the will of the Father. Obedience, no matter how it looks, is reconciliation. Sin is separation. Obedience is reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5)
- I. Why is the big picture important? Because there are many things that we can be offended at along the way if we do not see the joy set before us. Does Jesus love us? Yes and absolutely. And in that, we all know that the way He leads us can be hard and narrow just as He promised. David spent nearly 16 years in a cave. He had a word to be king of Israel, but God's training led him a hard way.

Ephesians 1

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

- J. This is what He is doing. This is also the ministry that we have been given! Reconciling the world through radical obedience.

II. THE NECESSITY OF PRIESTLINESS

- A. I have been to many conferences on gifts in the body of Christ. Apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists. And this is good to be sure. But until we understand priestliness, the land will languish. We must have the order right in the Kingdom. We must value the presence of God with our time and money. Priestliness is about the position of the heart.
- B. Stand4LIFE and S.O.S. Cry!

Psalms 133

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

- C. The rigors of unity, real unity is like the revelation of priestliness... and the blessing will be a culture of life. The priests were responsible to inspect and arrange the offering brought by the people and to tend the fire on the altar so that it did not go out. (Leviticus 6) Oh, that our pulpits in Florida would have such men and women today!
- D. We must not allow our churches to offer to God what is blemished and unholy. We must tend the fire of His presence continually. If the priest would guard these things... the land would be blessed.
- E. I've spent the last 7 years studying the house of prayer and an understanding of priestliness, that quality of heart that put ministering to the Lord first. But when God revealed Psalm 133, there has been a clarity on us and Resound as a whole.
- F. We began to guard our speech and thoughts. No more "venting." No more slander sessions in the name of intercession. We gave and continue to give ourselves to these scriptures.

James 3

3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things... 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so...

- G. Thank God we have been given His Holy Spirit, who is more than able to tame us through and through. Oh, if we would give ourselves to this, God would release life over our churches, regions and nations.
- H. Priests were set up to minister to the Lord on behalf of the land, not just their tribe. The church must rediscover what it means to stand in the gap on behalf of the land.

III. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LAND

- A. This burns within me. Just as people have a destiny, so do nations. Every nation is a dream in the heart of God. In America, we have a rich history. Our founding fathers made a covenant with God and the land. True revival will be a coming back to those truths.

The famed Nineteenth Century revivalist Charles G. Finney:

He said, "If there is a decay of conscience, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If the public press lacks moral discernment, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If the church is degenerate and worldly, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If the world loses its interest in Christianity, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If Satan rules in our halls of legislation, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our government are ready to fall away, the pulpit is responsible for it."

2 Kings 22

1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem... 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

8 And Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it... "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

11 When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. 13 "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

- B. It is a serious thing to pray for revival. Josiah was right before the Lord, but the land was defiled. It's not enough to have good intentions and ideas for church growth. We must take responsibility for the land. Strip clubs should not exist beside the church. Sex-trafficking should be hindered because of the prayers and witness of the church. Abortion should be overturned in the heart because the priests are teaching the difference between the holy and profane.
- C. We may have our beautiful services...But the question is simple: Is our region being turned upside down with the gospel?
- D. We did not get to choose the time of our birth. If we had lived in Germany during the holocaust, the litmus test of our spirituality would surely have been how we helped our brothers the Jews. If we had lived in America during the civil rights movement, surely we would wish that we had marched alongside our African-American brothers and sisters in silent protest.
- E. Make no mistake, we will give an account for our region not just our church. (Luke 10)

Ezekiel 22

23 And the word of the Lord came to me: 24 "Son of man, say to her, You are a land that is not cleansed or rained upon in the day of indignation. 25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. 26 Her priests have done violence to my law and have profaned my holy things. They have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. 27 Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain. 28 And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord has not spoken. 29 The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without justice. 30 And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none

- F. Let us lift up our eyes and see the horizon. God raise up a church who stands on behalf of the land. If God could find such a people, revival will surely chase at their heels!