

A Kingdom of Love

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you! Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his **Kingdom** will never end!" (Luke 1:26-33 NLT)

- Magi asked, "Where is the newborn '**King**' of the Jews?"
- The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy that Jesus was the King of Kings.
- It was the title written about his head as he hung on the cross, "Jesus. KING of the Jews."
- God will give the child the THRONE of King David from which He will rule over all.
- There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his **kingdom**.
- **Jesus, the King.**
- People ask, "Where is the Kingdom of God?". The Kingdom is where is the King is reigning.
- Everywhere Jesus went, He said, "The Kingdom of God is upon you." Because Jesus is the King, and wherever the King is ruling is where the Kingdom is.
- For two thousand years, at Christmas time, we have been celebrating the birth of Jesus. And what we are celebrating when we celebrate the birth of Jesus is not just that a baby was born. But that a KING was born. And not just any King. But the
- And when this King of Heaven was born, He brought HEAVEN with Him.
- What we are celebrating is that Heaven came to earth. The fact that God **became** a man.
- **At Christmas we celebrate that the KINGDOM has come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ.**

- But what KIND of Kingdom is this?
- **The clue to the Kingdom is found in the King.** You want to know what a Kingdom is like, look at the King of that Kingdom.
- **JESUS is the King of the Kingdom. So what is Jesus like?**
- When the blind man called out to Jesus in **Luke 18**, he said, “Jesus, Have **MERCY** on me.” And Jesus did.
- **Matthew 9** says that Jesus was moved with **COMPASSION** when He saw that the masses were like sheep without a shepherd.
- Jesus **defended the marginalized.**
- He stood up for **RIGHTEOUSNESS.**
- He was full **GRACE.**
- Full of **TRUTH.**
- He brought **HEALING.**
- **SOUL PROSPERITY.**
 - **He’s the prince of peace. He’s the source of all joy. He is life itself. He is living water. He is the bread. He is the light of the world. He sets captives free.**
 - Yes! It is a kingdom of freedom and grace and mercy, and forgiveness, and healing, and power, and equality, and hope, and peace and joy, and justice and truth, everything good, right, pure, and lovely, but what kind good, right, pure, and lovely.
- **Everything that we see in Jesus, everything I just said, is characteristic of his Kingdom, but what is the foundation that all of it is anchored in?**
- What is the root system from which it all grows? Because a house is only as good as its foundation, and a tree only as good as its root system.
- This peace; this freedom is only as good as the foundation that it is built upon; the root system from which it grows.
- **What, then, is the law by which Jesus lived?**
 - Show me that and I will show you what His Kingdom is made of.
- There was teacher of the law in **Matthew 22** who asked Jesus is this very question. **“Teacher what is the greatest of the commandments?”**
- Jesus’ answer to the question? Love.

- What is his the greatest law? “Love.”
- Jesus answered: “You shall **love** the Lord your God with all of your heart soul, mind, and strength. And you shall **love** your neighbor, as you **love** yourself.” **The foundation, the root system, the law is love.**
- Love is the motivation and the end goal. And it is from a motivation of love and for the end goal of loving relationship that He gives peace. Is it love that moves him to compassion. It is love that moves Him to see all men, women, color, creed, as equal.
- His law is LOVE.
- **The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of love** because the kingdom takes on the nature of its king, and 1 John 4 tells us that the King IS love.
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- When Jesus was born, He brought the Kingdom of Heaven, a Kingdom where love is the law, the motivator, and the end goal, to earth, but it was only in PART.
- When He returns He will seal the deal in the culmination of all things.
- **But what about right now?** What about in this space that we are living in right now. Jesus has come. But Jesus has not yet returned in glory yet. So what about right now?
- **And that is the power of Immanuel (“And his name shall be called, “Immanuel”).** Immanuel means, “God is WITH US”. And not just “with us” as in only when Jesus was physical on the earth. But even now, in the person of the Holy Spirit.
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- The Spirit of God, the very presence of Christ is with us.
- And this is the power and the reality of Christmas — that Jesus HAS come and IS here, which means that this Kingdom (where love is the highest law), is AMONG us right now.
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- You may not know what you need this Christmas. But what you need is the love of God.
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- **The motivation and end goal of everything God does is love.** Jesus coming to the earth, being born as a baby, humbling’s himself to become a human being, living a righteous life, everything that he did in his life, and then in His death and resurrection, was a demonstration of His love.

- Even Jesus just coming at all, was a demonstration of the love of God. **“For God so LOVED, the world that He GAVE his only son.”**
- Some of us today have some idea of God as being some distant, terrifying, Holy being, with rule book in one hand, and whip in the other, ready to dish out punishment to anyone who doesn’t keep the rules.
- And God IS Holy. And God IS so mighty that our knees would buckle if we saw Him, but He is NOT FAR. And He is not SCARY.
- Yes God has wrath for sin. But Jesus took that wrath on the cross, and what God has for us now is MERCY, Grace, and LOVE.
- **What kind of love?** The kind of love that you see in Jesus.
- You want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus. It has been said that “Jesus is what God has to say”.
- **Jesus came to show us what the Father was like.** Jesus said that if you have seen me, you have seen the Father. Jesus is the very essence of the Father. That’s why when the prophet Isaiah wrote of the future coming of Christ in Isaiah 9, he called him **“Prince of peace, wonderful Counselor, everlasting father”**.
- Jesus is what the Father has to say.
- You want to know what kind of love God has. You want to know what kind of love is at the foundation of His Kingdom? Look at the life of Jesus.
- My wife has been asking me for weeks, what I want for Christmas, and I’ve come up short. I don’t really want anything.
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- What my soul needs, is the Kingdom and the King of the Kingdom to enter into my disappointments, my loss, my sorrow, my anxiety. That’s what I want for Christmas.
- That’s what I need for Christmas.
- Every advertisement, every TV commercial, every article, most of our friends, they are all saying the same thing: What we need to build is a life of legacy. What we need to do is be more generous. What we need is more kindness. What we need is compassion. More stability. More safety. Maybe even LOVE. But what KIND OF LOVE?
- Because humanistic love has connection with ME as the end goal and motivation, and I’ve got news for you, when I am the end goal of our love connection, you are going to be solely disappointed.
- Only the LOVE of God shed abroad in our hearts can provide the kind of hope for us that does not disappoint.
- I need the Kingdom of Love and the King of that Kingdom to be manifest in my life this Christmas.

- **In His Kingdom there is:**

- Real Joy for the downcast and depressed
- Strength for person at the end of their rope
- Hope for the disappointed and let down
- And there is real love — the kind banishes fear

- **In His Kingdom of love there is:**

- Open arms for the outcast
- Comfort for the lonely
- Peace for the anxious
- Rest for the weary

- **In His Kingdom of love there is:**

- Acceptance for the failure
- Forgiveness for the sinner
- Mercy for the proud
- Grace for the humble

- **In His Kingdom of love there is:**

- An everlasting Father who loves you with an everlasting love.
- No anger in this Father's eyes.
- There is no whip in this Father's hand.
- No disappointment in this Father's voice.

This is not like the Kingdoms that we build or even imagine building. This Kingdom is not built with ingenuity, and human wisdom. This is not a Kingdom built on someTHING. This is a Kingdom built on someONE.

- A One who won't forsake you
- A One who won't abuse you
- A One who won't reject you
- And the One who won't refuse you

- **In this Kingdom of Love there is a King who:**

- Knows your name
- Knows every single thought
- Knows every single one of your desires
- And he has your back every single time

In this Kingdom of Love there is a King:

- Acquainted with your grief
 - Knows about your need
 - Sympathetic to your struggle
 - Privy to your problem
 - Present in your sadness
 - Forming you in the fire
 - Molding you in the mire
 - Singing over you in your sadness
 - Holding you in your heartbreak
 - Working in your waiting
 - And using your situation and your suffering which are not worthy of being compared to the glory that shall be revealed in you when His KINGDOM OF LOVE finally comes in all of its glory and power.
 - THAT'S the kind of King and Kingdom you need this Christmas.
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- A Kingdom of Love means a Kingdom of everything good, everything lovely, everything pure, and everything right.
 - I don't know what place this Christmas finds you in, but if your heart and mind are not full of everything good, lovely, pure, and right — If you find yourself full of sorrow, disappointment, anger, or whatever else that is contrary to this Kingdom that we've been talking about, I want to ask you to join me in inviting the King of the Kingdom to enter in.
 - **Revelation 3:20** "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and **opens the door**, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me."
 - I believe Jesus is standing at the door today, waiting for us to open up, that He the King of glory may enter in. The psalmist wrote it: **Open up you gates, that the King of glory may enter in.**
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- **"King of Glory enter in"**
 - Family tension
 - Broken relationships.
 - Broken families.
 - Dissension and division
 - Wayward family and friends
 - Individuals and families that have suffered loss
 - The individual who is battling anxiety
 - The individual who is suffering depression

- The individual who is battling addiction
 - The individual who is full of anger
 - The person who was abused
 - The person who was cheated on
 - To the broken hearted
 - The financial need
 - The emotional need
 - The physical need
 - The need for healing
 - The need for restoration
 - The need for provision
 - The need for endurance
 - To the outcast
 - To the downcast
 - To the hopeless
 - To the doubter
 - To the lonely
 - Into every heart this Christmas
 - Into every life this Christmas
 - Into every mind this Christmas
 - Every relationship
 - Every gathering
 - Every gift given
 - Every meal
 - Every conversation
 - Every thought
 - Every word
 - Every home
 - Every moment
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- Immanuel, enter in.