



## KINGDOM LIVING

### Kingdom Connection

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025

John 18:36-37

Today we move into the final trio of messages in our KINGDOM LIVING series. This series is designed for you to see and know how to live as people of the kingdom, by the power of the kingdom, for the purposes of the kingdom.

1

**Without being people of the kingdom, we will be lost.**

**Without the power of the kingdom, we will be ineffective.**

**Without the purposes of the kingdom we will be religious.**

Let's go back to your beginning, your entrance into the kingdom. Jesus described this **Matthew 13:45-46**,

2

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,  
<sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

3

This parable highlights two things:

1. A place in the kingdom of the heavens is worth more than everything else you have.
2. You will have to give up your right to everything else in this life to follow Him.

4

Then compare that with your life in the full reality of the kingdom of the heavens – when you pass from this life to the next. **Ephesians 1:3** describes it well,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

5

IF, however, we have only sought Jesus to save us from a hellish darkness and weeping, and gnashing of teeth, then we have missed the purpose of the kingdom of the heavens and that will leave us religious. Your Christianity will feel more like trying than living. **And a Christianity that is TRYING to look and talk like Jesus will one day crumble and fall.**

‘Why (you might ask) does our trying in the end not work?’ Because its purpose is gain for self. So what, then, is the purpose of the kingdom of the heavens? No THAT is a great question, one best answered by the King Himself.

6 In **John 18:36** when under scrutiny by one of earth’s highest powers – Pilate – we find these words,

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

7 Then the conversation goes on in **verse 37**,

Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

8 Pilate was only concerned with his power over people and popularity with people – could he control the people and respect Ceaser? **Pilate’s purpose only existed in the horizontal dimensions of this life.** And it would rise and fall on the balance between power and popularity.

9 Jesus, however, said his kingdom was not of this world – it is not built on popularity with people or power over people. **That’s why He refused the crowds and remained humble.**

10 Jesus then declared His purpose which had been visible yet hidden from the day He was born – to bear witness to the truth. That core purpose creating all the patterns of His ministry. His birth, before He even spoke a word in human form, was a witness to the truth. In **Matthew 1:22**, we read,

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

That phrase is used by Matthew another 3 times over the next chapter. Why? Because doing what God has said must be done is bearing witness to the truth. Every command, every instruction is given by God so we could have clarity on what it means to live out HIS kingdom purposes in this life.

11 In **Matthew 10:24** Jesus said,

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

12

It is to be no different for us. Our purpose must exist in the vertical. Our purpose must come from above. Jesus said in **John 18:37**,

Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice

13

Where is that voice? Two places.

1. HEAVEN. ‘...when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places’ (Eph. 1:20)
2. BIBLE ‘For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.’ (2 Peter 1:21)

To live with kingdom purpose here and now we must understand that our influence in the horizontal plain of this life hangs on the vertical authority that comes from on high, just as it did with Jesus. Later in Pilate’s dealings with Jesus in **John 19:10-11** we read,

14

So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.

15

That’s why the great commission is so great, **Matthew 28:18**,

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

16

And in **Acts 1:8**,

you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth..

Our purpose is to bear witness to the truth – to JESUS Himself. And what shall that look like?

- Do you see someone crying? Cry with them.
- Do you see someone tired? Offer them the peace of Jesus.
- Do you see someone thirsty? Offer them a drink.
- Do you see someone naked? Offer them clothes.
- Has someone asked for help? Give without expecting in return.
- Has someone asked you to go with them? Go further.

17

**The purpose of being where you are is to be Jesus to those where you are.**