

Kingdom Vision

Seek First His Kingdom

April 19

2020

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Matthew 4:23 (NASB)

Rocketdyne Road Church of Christ
“Every member a minister...through service”

www.ccneosho.com



Cletus Green is in Freeman-West with pneumonia and dehydration. Amanda Oliphant is in need of our prayers. Donnis Luck is back at Benton House. Remember Dawn Dabbs, Denny Kruse, Judy Roark, Clyde Hopper, Brian Deckman, Phyllis Collinsworth, Garry Naylor, Nolan Edmondson, Ralph Cope, Helen Elder, Rachel Pyron, Don Johnston, and Bruce Bowers.

Sympathy

We express our sincere sympathy to Zac Erisman and his family on the passing of his grandfather, Johnie Douglas.

Directory Update

Pat Naden's new cell phone number is 479-586-7342.



Teen Bible Class

Every Sunday at 11:30am on ZOOM

Virtual Youth Group

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30pm on ZOOM



Almost 20 years ago I went to the Tulsa International Soul Winning Workshop. This was an amazing lectureship which brought together many great speakers to inspire and equip church leaders and students of Jesus to live into the Great Commission of Jesus.

During that year, I had been struggling with doubts if I could live into Jesus' mission for me as I was studying ministry at Harding and preaching for a small congregation in eastern Arkansas. My journey up to that point had been an awkward one and I didn't know if I had what it took to serve in God's Kingdom in the path I was taking. Was I talented enough? Was I righteous enough? Was I popular enough? Would I lead people astray or cause them to stumble? Could I lead people at all? Questions of self doubt plagued me.

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(Kingdom Vision continued)

I still remember stepping into the lecture hall (a hockey arena at the Tulsa Fair Grounds) that morning, wondering if the message would help me at all. A great student of Jesus, Randy Harris, was the keynote that morning to talk about The Beatitudes. If you have never heard Randy speak before, you need to know that he isn't your typical preacher. For one thing, during this time he always wore all black. His speaking style is more conversational where he asks questions and invites you to join him as he seeks out the answers. It's as if he is inviting you to seek God's answer instead of our own, without putting himself in the shoes of God.

As Randy taught about the Beatitudes, one message kept resonating in my mind. Jesus was not about how perfect our talents and attitude are for the moment, but how He can take the imperfect and build His Kingdom with it. He talked about how Jesus can make all things new and use the least of these. He questioned if the popular and talented really make the better leaders or if the best servants come as a result of their journey with Jesus. And then he laid out a bombshell for me that has changed my thinking about leadership ever since. He posited that the Beatitudes reveal not that we have to be like all of these beatitudes, but that Jesus can take us where we are (poor in spirit, meek, hungry and thirsting for righteousness, pure in heart...) and invite us into the Kingdom of Heaven in such a way that all of us have what it takes to follow His lead in the Kingdom. It's not about our leadership skills. It is about our ability to be near the King, to follow him! And we all can do that!

As I pondered that I had been doubting myself instead of looking to where Jesus was going, Randy did something that has powerfully affected me ever since. It reinforced the truth that God's Kingdom is all about the transformative nature of Jesus in our lives and world. If you have ever heard Randy speak, you know that he ends all of his sermons the same way. Randy will lift up his hands toward the crowd and he prays the priestly blessing found in Numbers 6 mixed with the blessing in Ephesians 3:20-21. And, I realized, these blessings are for all of us as we seek His kingdom first.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord turn his face to you and give you peace. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Tye