



*Developing A
Kingdom
Mindset*

**A Sermon Series Devotional Guide
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"If we were left to ourselves with the task of taking the gospel to the world, we would immediately begin planning innovative strategies and plotting elaborate schemes. We would organize conventions, develop programs, and create foundations... But Jesus is so different from us. With the task of taking the gospel to the world, he wandered through the streets and byways...All He wanted was a few men who would think as He did, love as He did, see as He did, teach as He did and serve as He did. All He needed was to revolutionize the hearts of a few, and they would impact the world."

-- Dr. David Platt

*The Kingdom Christian Mindset #1
Gospel Personalization
March 13, 2011*

1. **What** is the difference between referring to people as “God’s children” vs. “God’s creation?” Take some time to think about it because we are going to come back to it later.
2. **Read** John 3:1-21
3. **In** this passage, John contrasts genuine and authentic Christian faith (the first clue to what being “Kingdom Minded” is all about) with the practice of religion. He references an individual named Nicodemus. John wants to make sure you know how religious he is because he describes the group he identified with and what he did for a living. How is Nicodemus religiously described?
4. **When** did Nicodemus seek out Jesus? Read Matthew 3:7-8 and 21:45-46. How would you describe King Jesus’ relationship with the group that Nicodemus is identified as being a part of? How do you think Nicodemus would have been viewed by his religious group if he had sought out Jesus during the day?
5. **If** your answer was something along the lines of “Nicodemus would have been looked down upon, judged or ostracized” then you answered correctly. Jesus already knew this before Nicodemus asked his first question. As a result, he begins to educate Him about what authentic Christian faith is all about. What can we learn about authentic Christian faith from verses 3-6?
6. **You** see, my friend, it isn’t possible to understand what having a “Kingdom Christian Mindset” is all about if you haven’t separated truthful Christian faith for false religious belief in your own life, much like Nicodemus.
7. **I** want to walk you through some passages in Romans so that you can see how the Gospel is meant to be understood. First, read Romans 1:18. What does this say about what mankind deserves apart from a “new birth” in Christ? Next, read Romans 3:22-25. Instead of giving us what we deserve, what did the Father do to Jesus according to verse 25? That’s right. His son died as a sacrifice for our sin, which essentially means, he punished Jesus for our actions. What does this imply for us according verse 24? Now read Romans 10:9-11. How do we receive this grace? Now flip back to Romans 8:1 and read that verse. In essence, Paul is explaining to you that only Jesus can reverse the consequences of our sinful condition that you read about in Romans 1:18. And once you have stepped into that “grace” (not by religious works) but by genuine faith in what Jesus has done for you on the cross, then you understand what Jesus means by being “born again.” We deserved condemnation; but, God punished his Son to save us by His grace through faith. As a result, we are not condemned. That is “good news” and that is why, consequently, the Gospel in the Scriptures is described as such.
8. **The** question then for you to ponder is this: when you think about being a Christian, do you think along the lines of Nicodemus’ line of reasoning or Jesus’ line of reasoning? How might you mislead people if you think like Nicodemus? How might you help people if you begin thinking like Jesus, with a Kingdom mindset?
9. **Has** your understanding of “God’s children” changed in light of what you learned?

Memory Verse

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:14; NIV).

*The Kingdom Christian Mindset #2
Gospel Participation
March 21, 2011*

1. **A** long time ago, I heard a Christian song on the radio that indicated that for God to accomplish His Gospel work “he just needs a few good men.” Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
2. **N**ebuchadnezzar was a Babylonian king who thought he was the king of the world. He had it all figured out. He was the supreme chief and ruler of the world in his mind. “The buck stopped with him,” so to speak. Our Lord humbled him. Read Daniel 4:34-37. What did Nebuchadnezzar learn about the way God operates?
3. **L**et’s return to the song. Does God need you or me in order to accomplish His work? You are correct. He does not. Jesus indicates the same thing in Luke 10:2. Read it. Who is the Lord of the harvest? Who sends out the workers in the field? What is the first step to participate in His work according to the verse? That’s right. You have to ask (pray) to be involved in His work. God is going to accomplish His Gospel work with or without you. With or without me. And with or without First Baptist Church of Vero Beach. The question is do you desire to be a part of it? If so, he wants you to participate in his work. He wants you to join Him.
4. **O**ne of my favorite passages in the Bible is Matthew 16:13-19. Peter’s “Gospel Personalization” in this passage was Peter’s invitation by Christ our King to participate in building His kingdom. Read it. What do you think Jesus meant when he said to Peter He was giving him the keys to the kingdom? What has God entrusted you with that you can use to join Him in building His kingdom?
5. If you read the Book of Acts, you will see that Peter was transformed by Christ because of His faith and looked for ways (sometimes even if he didn’t want to) to participate in God’s work. Where do you see Him working in our church? Where do you see him working in our community? Will you join Him? “How do I,” you might ask? Be yourself. Think about who you are. What your passions are. What your gifts are. And use them. He calls you to participate. He won’t force you. It is a choice you will make. Will you follow Him? Will you participate and join Him?
6. **O**ne final thought. Have you ever been guilty of evaluating those who participate with the Lord and work for Him in their church while you sit back and give a “thumbs up” or “thumbs down?” Well, sometimes I did before I surrendered to my professional calling of “Gospel Participation.” But very soon after I began seriously studying the Scriptures, I realized that by doing so, I missed the point. I was called to “join hands” with those who labor in and for the Lord and begin laboring with them. Will you? If so, then you have grasped the essence of what “Gospel Participation” is all about. The Lord is already working in our church and in Vero Beach. Will you join Him?

Memory Verses

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37-38; NIV).

The Kingdom Christian Mindset #3
Gospel Personality
March 27, 2011

1. **I**f there was one sin I struggled with more than any other in the early stages of my life as a pastor, it was holding people to a standard that I was unable to keep myself. Do you think this is quite common for a lot of Christians? Why? Have you ever been guilty of this? What happened to the relationship(s) as a result?
2. **I**n the Gospels, the individuals that Jesus had the most trouble with were the Pharisees. They had a tremendous sense of religious pride. So much so that they actually became a stumbling block for sinners who needed a Gospel Witness in their lives. They blocked sinner's access to the Gospel. They persecuted the God of the Scriptures but they were convinced they were working for Him. Paul was guilty of this as well. Jesus rebukes them a number of times for this. My favorite example is found in Matthew 23:13. Read it. What does Jesus say about the spiritual condition of the Pharisees? What impact did their behavior have on sinners? Why? How can people be so religious that they are actually a barrier to the Gospel, not a witness to it?
3. **Y**ou see, one of the most foundational aspects of the Gospel of grace is that it demands that you be graceful in relationships with lost people AND saved people. The best example to see how Jesus approached sinners and those who were lost is in John 4:1-26. Read it. I hope you noticed that Jesus encountered her on her level and in her world. He didn't shy away from her sin because you cannot truly give a Gospel witness without dealing with it. But the WAY he did it (genuine empathy and compassion for the person) made all the difference. It changed her, forever.
4. **H**ave you ever heard this phrase "we often kick people when they are down on the ground?" What do you think it means? Do Christians in churches, even pastors, do this? Is that an example of genuine Kingdom Gospel Personality? Why or why not?
5. **A**s believers, we are called to confront and deal with issues. But when we feel compelled to do that, we ALWAYS have to deal with our own issues first or we miss the purpose of the confrontation (reconciliation; restoration; and love for the person). If you don't, you will be acting to condemn that individual, not help them. Read what Jesus said in Matthew 7:1-5. The word "judge" means condemn. We are never called to do that. But when there is an issue in a person's life we feel compelled to address, Jesus always calls us to do something first. What is that? Why?
6. **R**ead Matthew 18:15 and Galatians 6:1. What is the first step to confront someone? That's right. Person to person (JUST between the two of you. How are you to restore someone caught in a sin? What happens if we do not? That's right. We become the spiritual issue. The greatest influence in my life (other than my Lord and wife) is a man who used to go to church here but had to leave and move to Alabama when he was diagnosed with cancer. When he dealt with an issue in my life, he always did it in a biblical way. He didn't take a straw poll to see what others thought. He didn't gossip. He sat down with me face to face and dealt with me in a way that restored me and didn't strip me of my dignity. It made all the difference in the world. The reason is because he is graceful because he understands grace. A good way to measure if you truly understand grace is to do a self evaluation of whether or not you are graceful to other people? Are you? Or do you hold people to a standard that you don't keep? Please don't.
7. **A**re their people you need to be more graceful with in light of the grace you have received from God? Gracefulness isn't a personality trait that is optional. It is a product of Gospel centeredness.

Memory Verse

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted" (Galatians 6:1; NIV).

*The Kingdom Church Mindset #1
Gospel Urgency
April 3, 2011*

1. **L**ists the tasks that are a normal part of your daily routine. Tasks that you have to get done. Tasks that you cannot delay.
2. **I**n a church, there are a number of tasks that are part of the normal routine. Most of these are great and noble tasks that are absolutely imperative to do in the church. However, if there is one task that must be put above every other routine task in the life a church, it is this: The urgent call from the King of the Church, Jesus, to take the Gospel to the community, state, region and the uttermost parts of the earth. It has to happen. It must happen. It cannot be delayed. Read Mark 1:15-20. What textual clues convey that Jesus demanded a sense of Gospel urgency from His disciples from the very moment He called them to follow Him?
3. **A** good devotion for you this week would be to read Mark and Acts. Pay particular attention to the sense of urgency (usually referenced with phrases like “immediately”) Jesus and His disciples had when it came to taking the Gospel to the world. Underline the references.
4. **W**hat happens to churches when there is no sense of urgency within the leadership and laity when it comes to their Gospel mandate?
5. **I**n my view, when churches don’t have a sense of Gospel urgency that can be seen in the laity and leadership’s lives that affects their hands and feet for Him, then those churches begin to die. When they do, they will grow and become very influential.
6. **W**hy do you think churches die when there is no sense of Gospel urgency? In my view, the reason they do is because they focus too much on themselves. Their needs. They will serve the Lord when it is convenient. There is no sense of urgency. However, when a church develops a sense of Gospel urgency, then she begins to focus on something much bigger than herself. She focuses on Christ the King’s Gospel and the impact it can have to change people’s lives forever.
7. **W**hat has to happen in order for FBC Vero to develop a sense of Gospel urgency? What might happen to our church in 50 years if we do not?

Memory Verses

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men. At once they left their nets and followed Him” (Mark 1:17-18; NIV).

*The Kingdom Church Mindset #2
Gospel Undertaking
April 10, 2011*

1. **W**hy do we place an emphasis on missions?
2. **H**ere is why: people are lost without Christ and will not go to heaven if they don't know Him (John 14:6). In essence, the importance a church places on the Gospel will directly affect that church's understanding and emphasis on missions. What book of the Bible chronicles the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys? Guess what; every single book in the New Testament is a product of missions. Every single one of them. Paul's missionary activity: *Luke; Acts; Romans; 1-2 Corinthians; Galatians; Ephesians; Colossians; Philippians; 1-2 Thessalonians; 1-2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon and Hebrews (in my view)*. James' missionary activity: *Matthew; James and Jude*. Peter's missionary activity: *Mark; 1-2 Peter*. John's missionary activity: *John; 1-3 John; Revelation*. That is correct, even all four Gospels were written to a people group associated with the missionary activity of these disciples of the Lord.
3. **R**ead Acts 13:1-3. What did the early church do with their missionaries according to verse three? Why do you think they did this (Hint: urgency of Gospel)?
4. **R**ead the entire Book of Acts this week and count the number of churches Paul planted that you read about in the rest of the Bible. Why do you think missions are so important to the advancement of the Gospel?
5. **T**hree things can happen when folks get irritated with the direction of their church. They stay. They leave. They start another church. I'm no judge of whether these are right or wrong. I'm not the Holy Spirit. But what I do know is that a Kingdom Centered Church sends people out from their congregation in order to take the Gospel to their nation and their world. It is how to measure a healthy church with the right priorities. We don't just donate money and hope someone else does it. We are personally involved in praying, fasting and sending people out to share the Gospel and invest their lives in others because of the Gospel. In what ways are we Kingdom minded in the way we do missions at First Baptist Church of Vero?
6. **W**hat are some Gospel-centered missions activities that we as a church need to do in your view? Why? Are those activities consistent with Kingdom Centered mission's activity?

Memory Verses

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20; NIV).

The Church Kingdom Mindset #3
Gospel Unity
April 17, 2001

1. **G**rab your wallet or purse. Go to the money section. Leaf past the one hundreds, the fifties, the twenties, the tens, the fives and pull out a one dollar bill. One the back of it is a phrase in Latin which reads “E Pluribus Unum.” What does that phrase mean?
2. **T**hink about that phrase in light of what is going on in our country and world right now. Do you think it is possible to achieve what the phrase means today?
3. **I** often hear people tell me “I wish we could get back to being a New Testament church.” To which I respond: “We are a New Testament Church.” The church isn’t perfect. Never has been. Never will be. Unity is very difficult achieve. Why?
4. **I**n the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for First Baptist Church of Vero Beach and for every church that has ever existed. His prayer is found in John 17:20-26. Read it. I would argue that is more important than the Lord’s Prayer when it comes to understanding what Jesus, our King, wanted our church do be all about.
5. **W**hat does he want us to be? Why does he want us to be one (hint; it is verse 23).
6. **T**hat is correct. The reason Jesus wants us to be unified is so that we can let the world know that the Father sent Jesus and that He loves them with a love so radical you can’t even begin to grasp it. So, let me ask you a question, is it possible to have a unified “Kingdom Church Mindset” if our agendas are not Gospel centered? At what point them does diversity become divisive?
7. **T**his begs another question for you to ponder. What distinguishes a “church” from a “social organization of people?”
8. **M**y friends, our King Jesus speaks and all of creation obeys Him. The earth. The sea. The clouds. The plants. The animals. Our King Jesus has spoken to us about His desire for our Kingdom Mindedness. Will we tell the Lord of Creation, “No?” Will you? I didn’t think so. He loves you my friend. And He has as much faith in us and we do in Him.

Memory Verse

“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” (John 20:23; NIV).

