

Sermon Notes: Reclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom — Session One

Introduction:

Insurgence: Reclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom by Frank Viola challenges us to rediscover the gospel's transformative power. The gospel of the Kingdom is not about personal salvation alone but about living under Jesus' reign, transforming our lives, communities, and the world.

Key Question: What does it mean to live under the Kingdom of God and reclaim its power?

Main Point 1: The Gospel of the Kingdom Is Revolutionary

Scripture: Mark 1:15 (NLT) *"The time promised by God has come at last! The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

Jesus didn't come to create a new religion but to bring the Kingdom of God to earth.

Illustration: The American Revolution — a radical shift from old rule to new freedom. Similarly, the gospel invites us into God's Kingdom, where everything is transformed.

Key Thought: The gospel is a call to radical change, not just a belief but a reorientation of our entire lives.

Main Point 2: The Kingdom Requires Complete Allegiance

Scripture: Matthew 6:33 (NLT) *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."

* Jesus demands total allegiance, calling us to prioritize His Kingdom above everything else.

Illustration: A soldier can't serve two commanders. In the same way, we can't serve two masters—Jesus must be our sole priority.

Quote By: Jim Elliot: *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."*

Key Thought: True freedom and joy come from total surrender to Jesus.

Main Point 3: The Kingdom Calls for Action

Scripture: James 2:17 (NLT) *"So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."*

The gospel of the Kingdom demands action, not just belief. Faith without action is dead.

Illustration: Seeds need to be planted to grow. Similarly, our faith must be lived out through our actions.

Key Thought: The Kingdom of God is about feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and caring for the least of these (Matthew 25:35-40). It's an active participation in God's work.

Main Point 4: The Kingdom Brings True Freedom

Scripture: John 8:36 (NLT) *"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."*

True freedom comes from surrendering to Jesus and living under His Lordship.

Illustration: A prisoner set free must learn to live in freedom. Similarly, in Christ, we are freed from sin and self to live for God.

Quote By: A.W. Tozer *"Real freedom is not the liberty to do what we want, but the ability to do what we ought."*

Key Thought: Freedom in the Kingdom is the power to live as God created us to live, free from sin and self.

Conclusion:

Key Questions: Are we living as citizens of the Kingdom of God? Have we surrendered everything to King Jesus? The gospel of the Kingdom is radical, challenging, and liberating. It's a call to give Jesus total allegiance, take action in His name, and live in the freedom He offers.

Quote By: C.S. Lewis: *"I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity."*

— Christianity and the gospel of the Kingdom is about transformation, not comfort.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Kingdom. We acknowledge Jesus as our King and surrender ourselves fully to His reign. Give us the courage to seek Your Kingdom above all else, to take action, and to live as true citizens of heaven on earth.

Guide us, Holy Spirit, as we walk in faith and bring light to the world. May Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Scriptures:

1. Mark 1:15 (NLT) — "The Kingdom of God is near!"
2. Matthew 6:33 (NLT) — "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else."

3. James 2:17 (NLT) — "Faith by itself isn't enough."
4. John 8:36 (NLT) — "If the Son sets you free, you are truly free."

Takeaway: The gospel of the Kingdom is about transformation, action, and freedom. We are called to live under the reign of Jesus, bringing His Kingdom to earth through our words, deeds, and lives.