

Kingdom-Covenant Mindset

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 2.1

Introduction

- Part 2 Synopsis: A practical examination of our covenant relationship with the King of kings, including his active involvement in everything each of us does, & our active involvement in everything he does

Mindset

- Definition: a fixed mental attitude or disposition that predetermines a person's responses to & interpretations of situations; a way of thinking that leads to predictable behavior
- We were born or conceived in sin
- Self-centeredness
 - can be an exaggerated focus on one's abilities or positive qualities – pride
 - or an exaggerated focus on one's inabilities or negative qualities – “poor self-image”
- Self-centeredness began with Satan
 - Eze 28:12, he originally was “the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty”
 - Eze 28:14, he was “anointed as a guardian cherub” and was “on the holy mount of God”
 - Eze 28:17, “Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.”
 - Isa 14:13-14, ¹³ “You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”
- Satan provoked self-centeredness in Adam & Eve
 - Gen 2:17, God told Adam, “you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”
 - Gen 3:3, Eve added a phrase, “and you must not touch it”
 - Gen 3:4-5, “You will not surely die.... For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
 - Satan planted 2 thoughts: (1) you can't trust what God said; (2) God's withholding something beneficial from you
 - This influenced both Adam & Eve to be motivated by self-centeredness: (1) to think independently of God, (2) trust their own judgment & (3) act in what they perceived as their own best interest regardless of what God says

- Self-centeredness was the root of all sin & it still is today
 - If you examine any sin, ultimately you'll find it's motivated by self-centeredness
 - The person who sins believes the sinful act will benefit him, make him feel better about himself, or accomplish something he wants
- So what is the appropriate mindset?
- Php 2:5-8
 - ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
 - ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
 - ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!
 - v 5, “attitude” (Gk, v, *phroneo*): (1) to think a certain way; (2) to have a certain attitude or perspective
 - What does verse 6 reveal about Jesus’ mindset?
 - “something to be grasped” (Gk, n, *harpagmos*): something held by force or even violence
 - What did Jesus’ mindset motivate him to do, according to verse 7?
 - “made [himself] nothing” (Gk, v, *kenoo*): to empty, divest, nullify
 - Son of God became a human, Jesus, knowing he’d have to humble himself further by willingly dying on a cross
- What do we have to do to develop the same attitude?
 - Mt 4:17, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”
 - “repent” (Gk, v, *metanoeo*)
- Our thinking originally was – still is to some degree – compatible with the world system, which is Satan’s kingdom and governed by sin
- What new way of thinking should we adopt?
- Whose responsibility is it to reprogram our thinking?
- How can we reprogram our thinking to conform to God’s kingdom?
- What effect should repentance or reprogramming have on our inherently self-centered thinking?
- What should we do when we have a self-centered thought?

Humility

- Humility is the antidote to self-centeredness
 - “humility” (Gk, n, *tapeinophrosyne*): the disposition of valuing or assessing oneself appropriately
 - Mt 18:4, “Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”
 - “humble” (Gk, v, *tapeinoo*): to bring a person low or down
 - I suggest becoming like a child means accepting what God gives you, believing what he tells you, trusting him to take care of you & simply doing what he says
 - “greatest” (Gk, adj, *meGas*): greatest in value, size, importance or degree
 - God considers humility the most important character trait for us to develop
- What kingdom responsibilities or obligations does humility impose on us?
- How must humility affect our thinking?
 - Php 2:3, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”
- How does humility enable us to be more effective in his kingdom and our covenant relationship?
- How can we develop humility?
 - 1 Pet 5:5(b), “... clothe yourselves with humility toward one another....” (also Col 3:12)
 - “clothe” (Gk, v, *enkomboomai*): to enter or assume a certain state or condition; conceived of as putting on a garment

Conclusions

- We had a self-centered attitude or mindset from the moment we were conceived
- We are responsible for repenting, literally changing the way we think to form a kingdom-covenant mindset
- Self-centeredness is the basis for all sin
- Humility is the antidote for self-centeredness