

To See the Kingdom

I. Life, Light Confronts Darkness

A. *In Him was Life.*

Jn 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

B. *“Life” – Light of a new creation and a new humanity*

Zoe, eternal, extraordinary, infinite life. Beyond *bios*. **Pura Vida**

Radiant energy that sets apart human life. *imago Dei*

SOMETHING NEW AND UNEXPECTED

Light shines in the darkness... New Creation...

Confrontation and Victory

C. *Light overpowers Darkness. No contest. We’ve already won! – BUT*

II. There is a Process and a Price

A. *Disasters, Disappointments, Disillusionments, Delays, Discouragements, and Distractions – Pressures, Tribulations,*

B. *The Witness*

Jn 1.6 There was a man **sent** from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a **witness**, to **bear witness** about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but **came to bear witness** about the light.

C. *The Voice*

Jn 1.19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ... **23** He said, “I am **the voice** of one crying out in the wilderness, **‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’** as the prophet Isaiah said.”

25 They asked him, “Then **why are you baptizing**, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, “I baptize with water, but **among you stands one you do not know**, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

D. The Lamb — taking away sin. (PRICE)

1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “**Behold**, the **Lamb of God**, who **takes away** the **sin** of the world!

34 And I have **seen** and have borne witness that this is **the Son of God.**”

Because of sin — death, disease, destruction, misery,

III. The Kingdom

A. To See the Kingdom

Jn 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless** one is **born again** he **cannot see** the **kingdom of God.**”

4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? ...”

5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless** one is **born** of **water** and the **Spirit**, he **cannot enter** the kingdom of God.

Jesus ... referring to John’s baptism of water, signifying **repentance**, and with the **transformation** of life by the **Holy Spirit**. INNER CHANGE

B. Gospel of the Kingdom — Collision w Cosmos

John

Matt 3:1 In those days **John the Baptist** came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2“**Repent**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.”

Jesus

Matt 4:17 From that time **Jesus** began to preach, saying, “**Repent**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.”

Acts 1:3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and **speaking about the kingdom of God.**

Philip

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached **good news** about **the kingdom of God** and the **name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women.

Paul

Acts 28:30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, **31 proclaiming the kingdom of God** and teaching about the **Lord Jesus Christ** with all boldness and without hindrance.

B. Authority to Announce the Kingdom

Matt 10:1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and **gave them authority** over unclean spirits, **to cast them out**, and to **heal** every disease and every affliction.

10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go ... **7** And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The **kingdom of heaven is at hand.**’ **8** **Heal** the sick, **raise** the dead, **cleanse** lepers, **cast out** demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

C. The Prepared Place and Person (appropriate home, the “son of peace”)

11And whatever town or village you enter, find out* who is **worthy** in it and stay there until you depart. **12**As you enter the house, greet it. **13** And if the house (Oikos — household, family) is **worthy**, let your peace come upon it, but if it is **not worthy**, let your peace return to you. *scour, search, inquire

Lk 10:5 Whatever house you enter, first say, '**Peace** be to this house!'
6 And if a **son of peace** is there, your peace will rest upon him.
But if not, it will return to you.

1. **Authority** over darkness
2. **Commission** ... heal, raise, cleanse, cast out
3. **Sending** Go... proclaim (announce) Kingdom of God, Heaven
4. A **Prepared** house — oikos (family, household)

III. Kingdom Visitations

1949 — Duncan Campbell (two sisters, Christine and Peggy Smith, blind and crippled) refused, yet within a fortnight he came for 10 days. Stayed 2 years. Isle of Lewis

1968 — **Lonnie Frisbee** came to Orange County, ultimately **Chuck & Kay Smith** *the man of peace* who **made room** for the hippies. Jesus movement. Calvary Chapel over 1700 churches...

1972 — Campus Crusade hosted Explo 72. 75,000 reach every US home for Christ by 1976... then the world...

1973 — **Hank Erwin** — went to Birmingham. **Woodlawn High School**. Jerry Stearns, **Tandy Gerelds, (man of peace)**, Tony Nathan... 5 min became an hour. Whole team converted... transformation... spread to Banks High School. **November 8, 1974 42,000** came to Legion see the playoff. 20,000 turned away. All about Jesus. Bear Bryant, Shorty White, Jeff Rutledge...

1980 — **Lonnie Frisbee... John & Carol Wimber** (man of peace)... Mother's Day Vineyard Yorba Linda... 1500+ baptisms next 6 months. Vineyard movement — 2500 churches

1994 — **Randy Clark** — **John & Carol Arnott** (man of peace)— Toronto Airport Vineyard. A movement — We went in Sep-

tember. Heidi Baker, Bill Johnson, Ché Ahn, Joseph Garlington, on and on.

Invitation —

A. Prepare Room to Receive — Don't Miss It

Seek it, look for it...

[Matt 6:33](#) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

It Comes **Unexpectedly**

[Lk 17:20](#) Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, [21](#) nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the **kingdom of God is in the midst of you.**"

Commissioning by Jesus — Announce, Heal, Raise, Cast Out

[John 20:21](#) Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."