

## Ministering to the World, Part 1

### Key Verses:

Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v.19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v.20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Revelation 11:15 - *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."*

### Objective:

In this lesson, we will turn our attention to our calling to advance the Kingdom of God in the realms of darkness. We will identify the controlling gates of influence and receive the mandate to prevail in faith and take our place in these spheres of influence for our King.

### The Kingdom of God in Our World Today

The Kingdom of God is relevant to every person, every nation, and every culture. The reason we cannot see it is because most "Christian" activity is religiously loaded and happening in the walls of a church building. This must change. We must unload our Kingdom experience so that it can engage every dimension of our society.

### Seven Gates of Influence

Matthew 16:18 - *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ - where evil is either restrained or endorsed
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ - where truths or lies about God and His creation are taught
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ - where information is interpreted through the lens of good or evil
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ - where values and virtue are celebrated or distorted
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ - where people worship God in spirit and truth or settle for a religious ritual
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ - where either a blessing or a curse is passed onto successive generations
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ - where people build for the glory of God or the glory of man

Whoever occupies these spheres of influence has the power to shape nations. They shape the agenda that forms nations by influencing the way they think and behave.

Unfortunately, we have spent so much time focusing on the church/religion mountain that we have neglected our responsibility to the rest of the spheres of power and influence in society.

Jesus' message was clearly the Kingdom of God and the advancement of this Kingdom was His priority. It was His first message and His final message before departing. To obey Jesus fully, we must be actively advancing His Kingdom in our spheres of influence in this world.

- 1) What is the Kingdom of God?
  - a) The Kingdom of God in all the earth is God's \_\_\_\_\_ plan.
    - i) God first established the Kingdom of God in the Garden of Eden. There, Adam and Eve enjoyed three things:
      - (1) Perfect uninterrupted \_\_\_\_\_ with God

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ energized by the Spirit of God

God's life was in them and He was their wisdom and righteousness.

*Job 33:4 - The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ over all that God had made

(a) They were created to be joint rulers over the earth (Genesis 1:26f).

(b) They were protected in their obedience from the devil.

(c) There was no pain, suffering, sin, sickness, or death.

ii) Satan offered Eve independence from God and when they chose independence they were driven out of the Kingdom.

(1) Adam and Eve suffered the loss of all that they had enjoyed.

(2) The Kingdom of God on earth was replaced by the dominion of darkness.

But the Kingdom of God did exist!

b) The Kingdom is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God.

i) He is the King of Kings

*Revelation 19:16 - On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

ii) The Kingdom of God is also called the Kingdom of the Son

*Colossians 1:13 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.*

iii) The Son came to redeem what Adam had lost and reestablish God's Kingdom on the earth through is blood-washed, Spirit-led disciples.

c) God's plan is the Kingdom of God on the earth.

Matthew 6:9, 10 - *Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. v. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v. 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

2) See yourself as a vital person of the Kingdom.

a) \_\_\_\_\_ the rule of Jesus Christ in your personal life and in your world.

b) \_\_\_\_\_ living in the realm of the King.

i) Perfect uninterrupted fellowship with God

ii) Live a life which is energized by the Spirit of God

iii) Exercise your authority as a child of the King

c) \_\_\_\_\_ to be a person with Kingdom influence and Kingdom authority.

*There is no such thing as secular employment for the believer... Every believer is in full-time ministry – only a few have pulpits in sanctuaries. The rest have pulpits in their areas of expertise and favor in the world system.*

*-Bill Johnson*

i) Fill your place of \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) When a Christian refuses to take a place of influence that has been assigned by the Lord, it creates a vacuum of leadership by that person's own neglect.

That vacuum is then filled by a counterfeit, which begins to exercise the wrong influence over others in the spheres of influence.

(2) If we do not fill these places of influence, then they will be filled with a counterfeit influence, the devil's counterfeit.

ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the Kingdom in your sphere of influence.

*Matthew 11:12 NLT - And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it.*

(1) The church centric mentality is blocking the advancing of the Kingdom in the spheres of influence.

For too long, people have thought that the church is the only setting for ministry, and that church work is superior to other kinds of Kingdom activity.

This creates and unhealthy separation of organized church and lost humanity.

(2) Use your gifts in your ministry to the world (the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits; gift of faith; working of miracles, etc.)

iii) Walk in your authority as a Kingdom advancing child of God (Matthew 28:18-20).

Gates: Government, Education, Media, Entertainment, Religion, Family, Business

(1) Go in the authority of your calling.

*v. 18 - ...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v.19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*

(2) Go in the confidence of your ability to teach others truths of the Kingdom

*v. 20 - Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

(3) Go in the assurance of knowing that Christ is always with you in your ministry to the world.

v. 20 - ...*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

God wants the kingdoms of the world to become "... the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ..." (Revelation 11:15).

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## REFLECT

1. What about this lesson spoke most powerfully to you personally?
2. Is it possible to have influence in more than one gate? What does this look like in everyday life?
3. Which gates do you find God has placed you in? How can you bring the Kingdom of God to these gates?
4. Pastor taught that Adam and Eve enjoyed these benefits of life in the Garden of Eden: 1) fellowship with God, 2) life energized by the Spirit, and 3) authority over what God has made. How are these same benefits manifesting in your own life as a born again believer?
5. Read out loud the quote from Bill Johnson in the lesson and discuss.
6. What questions do you have?

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## ACT

Read the anchor verse to this lesson and answer the following question in writing.

Matthew 28:18 – *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v.19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v.20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

How are you practically living out this mandate at the gate(s) God has placed you in?