**Bringing in the Kingdom 3 23rd July 2019**

**Intro**

We’ve been talking about…..

**How do we participate with God, to bring the Kingdom of God on the earth?**

i.e. How can we see the sick healed, demons leave, the needs of poor met, justice and righteousness prevail in our society

Q = Is there anything we can do to unleash the breakthrough of the kingdom?

Q = Is it entirely up to God and we just have to wait and hope?

V

Or can we actually partner with God to invite the powers of the coming age to break into today & affect and shape our world?

The answer I said that we need to hear and believe =

We can partner with God to unleash / enable a breakthrough of the kingdom

And there is stuff we can do!

**Expectation**

We talked about our expectation – it begins with our expectation

i.e. the more we see God move, the more our expectation will change about what God can do

And the more our expectation changes, the more we will see God do.

I experienced God moving on my behalf this week in an incredible way

I’ve been asking God to tell me why he did.

Q = What caused Him to act for me this week?

Q = Was it because it was the end of the road for me if he didn’t?

Q = Was it because I’ve been preaching about Yahweh being the God who shows up and if he didn’t, I couldn’t preach with conviction anymore?

Q = Was it because He loves me and knows how much I can take, so it’s a question of how desperate we are?

I’ll try and share with you why in a moment

But what I know is, it’s left me in a place where I know the God I love and worship is more powerful than the greatest powers in this country

And when He speaks, it results in action / things change

And on the back of how God has intervened for me this week, in a remarkable way, so much so that when I got the phone call with the news – I cried,

even though I was in the middle of the school playground!

…..On the back of how God has intervened for me this week…..

my expectation of what God can do has increased.

And when our expectation increases, when we really expect God to move

……Then we can pray ‘your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven’

When we pray that, we are praying for nothing less than the powers of the coming age, to break into the situation we are praying about through Jesus Christ

& when that happens things change

* People are healed
* People are set free from whatever holds them captive
* Justice is done

i.e. God shows up

His will is done on the earth

**When we pray “Our Father who is in heaven, you are the God who shows up, holy is your name, let your kingdom come”**

We are praying “come Holy Spirit”

We are praying for a breakthrough of the rule of God in our lives

It’s a specific kind of prayer which says “God we need you to move now,

in our lives,

let your kingdom come”

**Kingdom Announcement**

That’s where I was this week

And when we are in that place, we can announce the Kingdom has come.

In Jesus’ time, the Romans had officers who were delegates of the Emperor.

And when a new law / edict was passed in the Empire, it was their job to ride out to every town, stand in the market square, on a raised platform and announce the new edict, as declared by the Emperor.

NB. And the understanding was that as the guy spoke the word / when he made the announcement, it was at that moment that it became law in that town

(because before he got there, they wouldn’t have known about it)

So his word became an event of law happening wherever he went

And the word the Romans had for these officers, is the same word that the gospels use for what they saw in the ministry of Jesus

* He would go from place to place announcing “the kingdom of God is at hand” and he would then demonstrate it by

healing the sick

Raising the dead

Casting out demons

It was like His words unleashed the power of His works

e.g. He said “stand up and walk” to the crippled man & he stands and walks

i.e. The announcement unleashed the power

**The Commission**

& Jesus is very plain that this is the commission he has given us

Matthew 10: 7 -8

“As you go, preach this message….The kingdom of heaven is near

* Then notice his assumption!

i.e. If you announce it, you will demonstrate it

…..

Heal the sick!

Raise the dead!

Cleanse those that have leprosy!

Drive out demons!

Freely you have received, freely give!”

He expects us to behave just like he behaved.

i.e. to go around this world telling people that God is drawing near, now, with His kingly rulership and power and “here it is, it’s going to happen”

So, I have a question for you now

Q = Do you think this is easy?

A = it’s not easy!

And it’s very tempting to back off and not try to do this because it’s a risky life pressing in to living on the edge of this kind of ministry – kingdom ministry

**So the question is = how are we to do it?**

There are a number of ways (I’m just going to give you a few examples)

1. We can have a ministry time during our service where we open it up and ask the Holy Spirit to come and allow God to do whatever he wants to do
2. We can learn to operate in power evangelism and prophetic evangelism

* You can pray, ask God to give you a word for one of your friends or a neighbour or a work colleague and then go and give it to them
* It takes courage but if you learn to operate in a prophetic gift, you can easily lead people to Christ and into the kingdom

1. When we engage in social justice, when we are involved with the poor, when we are involved in a ministry that challenges the oppressive systems that the poor are held in – we are on the very edge of where the kingdom of God comes in
2. When we as the Christian community is so different from the world, so desirable that people want to be a part of it

* When we eat together and there’s a real sense of family and love between us and people who don’t know God come amongst us, we are like the visible advert of the community of the future in this world.
* And there’s something very powerful about the people of God being the vehicle for the coming of the kingdom in someone’s life
* NB. That why breakfast here on a Sunday is so important. It wasn’t a bright idea, God instructed Steve to start it, why?
* Because it’s 45 minutes a week where those that don’t know God can come and experience the community of the kingdom. I’d like to honour Helen and Claire who serve in that capacity way every week.
* And I’d encourage those of you who haven’t come yet to come.

So we……

* Grow our expectation
* We then pray the kingdom prayer
* And then we go boldly in all these ways I’ve talked about into this world and effectively what we are doing is announcing to this world “the kingdom of God is at hand”
* And then we step out in faith and we do the praying for the sick, and the ministry to the poor etc

And as I said last week, this isn’t a formula so we won’t see it every time we step out but the more we step out, the more we will see it

Before I finish I want to say a bit more about ministry time during a service.

i.e where we open the service up and ask the Holy Spirit to come and allow God to do whatever he wants to do

The most important thing =

1. **We let God be God**

* What we must not do is get into pretending or manipulation
* We must let God be God
* We can not turn God on like a switch
* And I’ve seen Christian leaders talk up a move of God, shout at people, try to rev up the congregation, set the mood with certain worship songs, try and push people over in the power of the spirit (we all have seen stuff like that)
* There’s too much fear of the Lord in me to allow that here. I won’t have it. It is better to turn the dial down and let God be God.

**2. Do what the Father is doing**

Jesus said “I only do what I see the Father doing”

Wherever we go in trying to reach other people, we need to understand God is there before us. He is already busy in their lives. We are just one link in a long chain of events. And what we need to try and do is just be obedient to God in how we minister to them.

So it’s not “I am going to make God do something here”

It’s more having the eyes to see what God is doing and going over and blessing what God is already doing.

1. **Waiting on God**

* We can not turn God on like a switch

Let me ask you this….

Q = how long would you be prepared to wait during a Sunday morning service for God to come?

If I said “we’re going to pray for the Holy Spirit to come and then I prayed for the Holy Spirit to come and then we wait and you look at me, and I look back at you and then you look at your watch and you feel awkward and I feel stupid and then we decide to just go and get another coffee!

But if I have courage and you have desire and expectation and we pray the kingdom prayer and step out in faith, sometimes we will wait and God will show up and we will know it’s God not something we whipped up.

1. **The gifts of the Holy Spirit**

If you haven’t had the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit, ask God to baptise you

If you have never operated in the gifts of the Spirit – had a word of knowledge, a prophetic word for someone etc – ask God for one

If you have done that in the past, then ask God again

* The gifts of the Holy Spirit really help to increase our expectation of the Holy Spirit coming

This kingdom ministry is not easy but the more we do it, the more we will see God move.

The band are going to come back and play a song

And God told me to anoint people with oil as a symbol of the Holy Spirit

* So we’re going to do that
* if you would like to be anointed this morning, please come forward and come with expectation in your heart for God to show up in your life this morning