



**Kingdom Come  
Reach Weekend**  
Pastor Steve Robinson  
Church of the King  
October 15-16, 2011

**Message 1—The Kingdom**

Wow! What a tremendous video collage of all that our church has been involved in within the last year. I think you need to give yourselves a handclap. Again, I want to welcome everyone here today to **Reach Weekend**. In our time together, we are going to look at what the Bible teaches us about the Kingdom of God. And, in particular, the phrase that we see in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come," which inspired the title of our message today, **Kingdom Come**.

In the classic King James Version of the Bible we read in **Matthew 6:10-- Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.** Let's all repeat that together.

Apollo 15 astronaut, James Irwin, who later became a devout Christian, was the eighth person to walk on the moon. As he stood upon the lunar landscape and looked up at the earth, he prayed for the first time in his life. He thought about the strife among nations, poverty, hunger, and the evil that is in the heart of man; and he

thought to himself: " Jesus walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon."

When Jesus came to earth as the incarnate Christ, that is, Christ in the flesh, He was bringing the kingdom of God with His very presence. This is what James Irwin was describing. In a way, this is the same desire we express when we pray, "Thy Kingdom come." We are praying for God's Kingdom to come on the earth. But what does that look like? Can that really happen? Does God's Kingdom really come to earth?

As we all know, we live in a very interesting day and age in the history of our planet. We live in a wonderful time, and, yet, a very challenging time. It is the best of times, and the worst of time, as Charles Dickens once described.

It is the best of times because of the amazing accomplishments of the modern and post-modern world we live in. Our world allows us to live in a level of comfort and prosperity that was unheard of a century ago. We have airplanes that fly us thousands of miles around the world in a few hours. We have cruise ships that cater to our every need. Our cars have freed us to explore places that our great grandparents only read about in storybooks. The discovery of electricity ended 2000 years of the candle. The computer age ushered in an ever-evolving litany of products to serve our every need. We have Blackberries, Iphone, iPads, Nanos, Nooks, Droids, laptops, and Kindles.

In a time of such prosperity and technological prowess, it still doesn't satisfy us as humans. It still doesn't qualify as the perfect society. We long for something more. When you look back through history, we can see that people of every generation have been looking for some sort of utopian society in which there is heavenly bliss--absent of all pain, heartache, and suffering. In ancient times poets and philosophers longed for an ideal society. The Greek poet Hesiod dreamed of a lost Golden Age. Plato pictured an ideal state organized on philosophical principles. The Roman poet Virgil wrote

of one who would deliver the world from its sufferings. All of them had dreams and hopes of a better future.

As we see in scripture, the Bible teaches us that the Christian faith expresses its hope in terms of the Kingdom of God. This Biblical hope is not in the same category of the Greek and Roman poets, but is at the very heart of the Christian faith.

The Kingdom of God is deeply rooted in the Old Testament and is colorfully expressed in the New Testament, first through Christ, Himself, and then through the apostles and many wonderful people who made up the first century church. The prophets of old prophesied of a day when men will live together in peace, safety, and security—all this was prophesied for a happy future—a future kingdom.

Then Jesus came with the announcement, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"—Matthew 4:17.

Jesus in his teachings stated that the kingdom of heaven is not only just "at hand" on earth, but he also spoke of the Kingdom of God being an eternal destination for us all, as believers. In the book of Luke on the eve of His death He stated to His disciples—

Luke 22:29,30--And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me, <sup>30</sup> that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

There is, obviously, a future Kingdom that is not of this world. A kingdom of heavenly bliss, where Christ sits on the throne ruling and reigning. A kingdom where there are no tears, or pain, or sorrow. But, when we look at the earthly ministry of Jesus, He was modeling to us of how we are to bring the Kingdom of God to a hurting and dying world. Everywhere He went He was helping people—His kingdom had come.

In Acts 10:38, we read-- how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

What a tremendous example for us. You see, this is the thing, as believers we know that there is a future destination for us that is the Kingdom of God, but while we are still living on earth we are to bring the Kingdom of God into every sphere and sector of our society. The kingdom is here and now!

This is what you need to know, you and I are Kingdom carriers! We bring the Kingdom wherever we go. How does that happen? It happens through you and me. This is important for us to understand. So, what does the Kingdom of God look like, today? **The Kingdom of God is the present-day rule and reign of God in the earth today.** It is demonstrated to the world through us! Even in the Lord's prayer we are to pray that the kingdom come, "in earth." Again, how does that happen? Through you and me!

Today, the Kingdom of God is continuing to express itself through the millions of believers around the world who make up the body of Christ. That's what you saw in the video earlier. All those precious people from our church went out into the local and global communities and countries of the world and were the hands and feet of Jesus. They brought the practical and spiritual message of the Good News everywhere they went.

Not only did they touch the lives of many, many people, their lives were touched as well. Let's take a look. **(Go to Video 2)**

## **Message 2—The Kingdom In Us**

Wow! Those were some powerful testimonies. I want to take a moment now and talk about **The Kingdom In Us**. I first looked at what the Kingdom is, and now I want to talk about the Kingdom In Us. Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is in us.

Luke 17:20,21-- Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; <sup>21</sup> nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Many ask, so, when will the Kingdom come? It's already here. It's in us! How is that possible? The portal into the Kingdom of God is Christ. In the Kingdom of God the sick are healed, the hungry are fed, the least of the least are welcomed, and the evil powers of darkness have to submit to the power of Christ. This practically happens in the world today through US, as believers. The Kingdom of God dwells IN us, and we enter that Kingdom through the gateway of Christ. He is our entre' into the Kingdom.

The Bible says in John 14:6-- I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. In other words no one can enter into the Kingdom of God, or Heaven, but through Christ. And this is the cool thing--as we are in Christ, He is in us.

As a believer, Christ lives and dwells inside of us. And it is His power in us that gives us the divine thrust to go and "do good." It's the Jesus inside of us that causes us to weep with compassion when we see the hurting and the injustices in the world. It is the Jesus inside of us that causes us to get out of ourselves and of our own little world to see a bigger world than our own. It is the Jesus in us that sees the sheer mass of humanity in our world that doesn't know Him. And it is the Jesus that is in us that demands us to go into the many remote areas of the world that have never heard of Him, and to proclaim His name.

You see, when Christ comes to live inside of you, you are no longer the pilot of your own life. You no longer control your destiny. The Kingdom of God is now inside of you. With Christ living inside of us He changes our priorities. He changes our motivation. He changes our view of the future. We are no longer called to a life of self-preservation and self-interest, where we grid life through the lens of what is just best for me. He changes how we view other people and

relationships. We drop our acquired prejudices and see people the way God sees them. We no longer see the color of a person's skin, but we see them as a human being with the same hopes and aspirations as ourselves. With the Kingdom In Us, everything changes! Our perspective on life and eternity drastically changes.

What motivates those people we just saw in the video? I tell you what it is. It is the joy and the fulfillment they get when they have the opportunity to bring the Good News and *be* the good news to hurting humanity. They served others with the love of Christ with a heart of gratitude—a heart that has been changed because of Christ.

Story— We have a group of people in our church that have a heart for single moms. They regularly attend to the many single moms we have in the church. I thank God for them. I understand what it's like to have a single mom. This group was going out faithfully helping out one of the single moms in our church. The single mom was so touched and changed by them helping her she is now a part of that team. She has moved from being a recipient to being a contributor. What a tremendous story. Her life was changed! She is now reaching out to single moms, too. The Kingdom of God expressed through love in the team members touched a life that will never be the same. Her life was transformed. **Remember this, transformed people, transform people.**

Let's take a look and see how we can get involved in doing the same thing in helping others. **(Go to video 3).**

### **Message 3—The Kingdom Mandate**

Wow! 2012 is going to be an exciting year. Now in my final point today, I want to take a moment and look at The Kingdom Mandate. Jesus, in his resurrected body, before He ascended into heaven, gave some pretty strict orders to his disciples and to all of us today in

**Matthew 28: 18-21-- And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the**

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

This passage is commonly known as the great co-mission. Co-mission in the sense that it inclusive of all believers around the world, and for all of us to be participating in this direct order, at some level. We are all called to co-labor together in this co-mission of evangelization and discipleship. Whether it's across the street or across the sea, it doesn't matter. Somebody once said, you don't have to cross the sea, you just have to see the cross to be a missionary. It can be on the job, in your neighborhood, on the ball field, and, yes, even in church. We are all called as a Christian to be involved in the Kingdom Mandate.

This is thing all of us need to ask ourselves, "If not me, then who?" "If not now, then when?" We can all come up with excuses of why we can't do it. It's not the right time. I don't have the money. I'm not qualified. But none of them excuse or exempt us from ever saying or doing anything, indefinitely.

I want to challenge us as a church today to get involved in one our mission trips or local outreaches next year. There is a card in your bulletins that list all the trip opportunities next year, both locally and globally. Please take some time and prayerfully ask God where He would have you get involved next year. We are living in a day and age where people are hurting like never before and have questions and are waiting for someone to reach out to them. I implore you to get involved and be a difference-maker in someone's life, today.

Before we go today, I would like to introduce Diane Amos, who is our City Reach Director and Pastor Sam Hawkins who is over Global Reach. Let's give them a handclap for all their hard work throughout the year. They will be in the foyer to answer in questions you may have.

## **Water Well Project**

I'm so excited about this! Let me tell you what we are going to doing next year, as a church. The number one need in the world today is clean, non-contaminated drinking water. It is down right disgusting when you see children drinking out of stagnant, infested water holes, particularly in Africa and India. This year we believe God is asking us to be a part of helping rebuild the nation of Ethiopia that has been struck with drought and famine. The water well projects in Ethiopia and one in India will help bring life to an entire community.

In the Bible we see that water represents life. In John 4 Jesus said to the woman at the well that He was the water of life, living water. That if anyone drinks of Him, they would no longer thirst. As we drill these wells and supply these villages with good, clean drinking water, we believe their hearts will be open to receive the living water of Jesus Christ. This is exactly what happened on one of our trips to India last year. Take a look. **(To video 4)**

**(Pastor Steve—all the details pertaining to the water bottles and informational meetings will be in the video announcements. You don't have to mention again, so we can save time. It is very clear.)**

**Offering set up and prayer**

**Offering--Lights go black after offering to set up VA's**

**Video Announcements after offering song**

**Pastor Steve back up for closing prayer and final comments.**



## **Kingdom Come Reach Weekend**

### **The Kingdom**

Matthew 6:10

Matthew 4:17

Luke 22:29,30

Acts 10:38

The Kingdom of God is the present-day rule and reign of God in the earth today

### **The Kingdom In Us**

Luke 17:20,21

John 14:6

### **The Kingdom Mandate**

Matthew 28:18-21