

THE BIG IDEA: If it doesn't look like heaven, there's still work to do on earth.

The Take-Off

When I say the word “kingdom” what kinds of images and thoughts come to your mind?

Do you picture the 300 fighting for power or something from Game of Thrones?

And if you think of a king, what type of king do you imagine rules that kingdom?

A tired king? A fat king? A dictator? A pushover?

The Bible talks a lot about the kingdom. The OT is full of it, and Jesus didn't stop.

In fact, in the first book of the NT - Matthew - Jesus talks about the kingdom 56 times.

In one book.

The kingdom is mentioned 147 times in the NT.

So whatever it is - or isn't - the one thing it is is clear: it's important.

Matthew 4:23 / Everywhere Jesus went, he told people good news about a kingdom

Matthew 10:7 / When he sent out his disciples, he told them to tell others about a kingdom

Matthew 6:33 / Jesus said that the kingdom is more important than and should be sought before things like food, drink, clothing

But here's the thing...

We don't do that. In fact, when our feet hit the floor in the morning, most of our minds will already be consumed with thoughts of this earth and not of the kingdom.

For most of us, the kingdom that should be sought first is usually an afterthought, if it's even a thought at all.

And that's a problem. Here's why: [2 Cor. 5:20](#) says that we're ambassadors here.

An ambassador is simply a representative of one land in another land.

The ambassador's role is to reflect the official position of the sovereign body that gave him authority.

As we go through this world, we represent another kingdom, and it is our responsibility to reflect the “official position” of heaven.

It would help to know the official position of heaven, wouldn't it?

And not only do we represent heaven on earth, but Jesus took it to another level when he taught his disciples (yep, that's us, too!) how to pray.

Look at [Matthew 6:9](#) - Jesus told us to pray for God's kingdom to come

Come where? [Verse 10](#) - here on earth.

So before we take another step in this series, can we all agree - whether we like it or not or agree with it or not or even see the point in it or not - that the will of God is not to save people who then hide in their homes or churches and wait to go to heaven.

His will is for us to see his kingdom come here.

Let's say it like this: **if it doesn't look like heaven, there's still work to do on earth.**

God's not satisfied with Pinterest fails when it comes to his kingdom!

[IMAGES - Pinterest fails]

Over the next 6 weeks, we're going to talk about specific characteristics of the kingdom, but today I just want to give all of us 2 practical observations that can help us bridge the gap between the kingdom there and the kingdom here. Here's number one.

1. If it's not in heaven, it doesn't belong on earth

- a. This is about the AUTHORITY of the kingdom
- b. The Greek word found in Matthew 6:9 is “basileia” and it means “royal power, dominion, rule”
 - not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom
 - of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah
 - of the royal power conferred on Christians in the Messiah's kingdom
- c. That last one is really important.
- d. We're not just tasked by God with spotting things that don't look like heaven - we're actually given the authority to do something about it

- e. To literally bring heaven to earth
- f. If Jesus tells us to ask the Father for the kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, then we need to start asking what's in heaven
- g. People ask all the time if it's God's will to heal sickness. Yes. How do you know? There won't be sick people in heaven.
- h. What about additions? There won't be addiction in heaven.
- i. What about _____? The answer lies in the question, "Is it in heaven?"
- j. If it's not in heaven, it doesn't belong on earth.

2. If it's not good, it's not over

- a. I can hear you, "Then why are there things on earth that aren't in heaven?"
- b. Because the kingdom is coming. There's a process, a journey, and anytime there's a journey, it's good to make sure we know the destination, right?
- c. I mean, there are some of you who would quickly volunteer for a 7 day road trip (because you're crazy) without knowing where we were going, but most of you would ask where before agreeing, yes?
- d. If it was a worthwhile destination, you'd agree. If not, no way.
- e. So, can I show you the destination - the DESTINY - of the kingdom?
- f. One word: **good**.
- g. At the beginning of the first book of the Bible we read the phrase "and it was good" 7 times
- h. At the end of the last book of the Bible we read about God dwelling with men, tears being wiped away, no more death or mourning or crying or pain. We find a river of life and healing for the nations and the end of all curses.
- i. To quote that famous Frozen theologian, Olaf, "All good things. All good things."
- j. When we know the authority of the kingdom, we can say "if it's not in heaven, it doesn't belong on earth"
- k. When we know the destiny of the kingdom, we can say "**if it's not good, it's not over**"

The Landing

The Bible starts with good and ends with good, and yet there's a lot of bad in the middle.

Why? Sin.

But in the middle with all the junk and sin and pain and sickness and addiction, there's a Father who is - wait for it - working for our good!!

Romans 8:28 / ALL THINGS - the good, the bad and the ugly - for our good and his glory

If it's not good, it's not over! We can stand with confidence in the destiny of the kingdom.

If it isn't in heaven, it doesn't belong on earth. We can stand with confidence in the authority of the kingdom.

If it doesn't look like heaven, there's still work to do on earth!

Work that God has been doing, is doing, and will continue to do until his kingdom comes on earth like it is in heaven.

[CLOSE - Kingdom Come cards and prayer at the altar]