

THE BIG IDEA: The kingdom HE is building brings ME into the WE.

The Take-Off

Please don't answer this question out loud or give any indication that you lean strongly toward a yes, but how many of you have ever wanted to push a button and make people disappear?

Me, too.

Full disclosure: I told you last week that I was going to make a statement grounded in Scripture that would take us 3 weeks to work through.

I told you that the truth of the kingdom being IN us was so revolutionary to the way we live that we'd need multiple weeks to unpack it.

I don't even think you believed me until I flooded it up with this statement: If the kingdom is IN us (and it is!), then we carry the kingdom everywhere we go, and carrying the kingdom should change HOW we walk, WHO we walk with, WHERE we walk, and WHAT we do when we get there!

That got your attention, because all of us have felt the disconnect between what we say is true and what actually becomes true in our lives.

This morning we're not letting up - in fact, as we talk about how carrying the kingdom should change WHO we walk with, my guess is that we're all going to feel the sting of conviction.

My prayer is that it would inspire all of us to the stirring of change.

First, let's look at the Lord's Prayer as it's recorded in [Matthew 6:9-13 \(NIV\)](#).

We'll put it up on the screens so we can all read it together.

I'm going to make one observation - just one - and then spend the rest of the morning talking about it.

There's no ME in that prayer.

That's not a political "socialism vs capitalism" statement; that's a kingdom observation.

The only person mentioned in the prayer is the Father, because it's HIS kingdom.

And individuals aren't left out because I am not important - I am and so are you - that's clear in the whole of Scripture. But salvation and the kingdom can never stop with ME.

Think about it - the prayer model Jesus gave his disciples would have been prayed often in solitude by an individual, but the language is corporate. Not forgive ME, but forgive US - not give ME but give US and so forth.

God is building a kingdom, and **the kingdom HE is building brings ME into the WE.**

None of us walks alone. Carrying the kingdom changes WHO we walk with.

Now, let me give you 3 takeaways based on that Big Idea.

1. All of us have a part to play

- a. Have you heard of Laurel Boone Hutsell?
- b. Me either, until I took break from message prep and saw a trending story on Fox News (don't judge me!)
- c. Seems she sent her 7th grade son to school wearing a green polo shirt on the same day as school pictures were being taken - with a green screen!
- d. [\[IMAGES / Floating head pics\]](#)
- e. That's funny, but sad when you bring it into the truth that if the kingdom is in ALL OF US, then **all of us have a part to play.**
- f. [1 Corinthians 12:12-20 \(NLT\)](#) / the body of Christ isn't floating limbs here and there - it's all of us, and the body doesn't function if all of us aren't playing our part
- g. Dead arms and a loud alarm at 5:42a
- h. Don't believe the lie that you're not necessary. The kingdom HE is building brings ME into the WE.
- i. You've got a part to play. All of us do.

2. All of us have a story to tell

- a. You don't just have a part to play; **you've got a story to tell.**
- b. In fact, all of us have a story to tell, and it's a story of grace.
- c. [1 Corinthians 6:9-11 \(NLT\)](#) / "Some of you WERE ... but you WERE ..."
- d. Telling the story about who you were gives people hope to become more than who they are
- e. Rev. 12:11 / Every story holds the power to help someone

- f. Your story is **your** story - unique to you but not uniquely for you
- g. It was meant to be told because knowing your story helps us understand your steps
- h. Granted, some stories are harder to hear, but every story is worth hearing!
- i. You've got a story to tell. All of us do.

3. All of us have a need to be met

- a. Let me make one final observation, and this one is critical, because this one keeps us in unity.
- b. **All of us have a need to be met.**
- c. All of us.
- d. We don't all have the same material needs, but we ALL have one same need: redemption from sin and adoption into family.
- e. **Ephesians 2:11-13 (NLT)** / BUT NOW!!!!
- f. What's the context? Verses 1-10 - the salvation from sin by grace through faith!
- g. It isn't the common struggle that unites us; it's the common Savior.
- h. Amos 3:3 / The grace of Christ allows us to agree to walk together in unity
- i. Proverbs 13:20 / Walk with the wise and grow wise. Companion of fools suffers harm.
- j. Being together doesn't prevent harm; being together in wisdom does.
- k. What is wisdom? It begins with the fear of the Lord. (Proverbs 9:10)
- l. If we miss this, the gospel becomes good people helping bad people. But that's NOT the gospel.
- m. The gospel is a good God helping all of us.
- n. Meeting your needs with my resources is socialism.
- o. Meeting our needs with God's resources is Christianity.
- p. You need a Savior. So do I. All of us do.

The Landing

The world understands the kingdom of ME, but what God wants to do is bring the ME into the WE, and HE needs the church to show the world that.

Recently I watched a movie called Same Kind of Different as Me and I was captivated.

It's the story of a woman who devoted herself to the homeless in her city, but it's more a story about the relationship that grew between her husband - a wealthy, entitled middle-aged white man - and a homeless man - a mean, bitter distant black man.

When we got to the end of the movie, I knew I had my closing for this message.

Lean in and allow the Spirit to inspire you about the power that is waiting if we'll simply allow the kingdom HE is building to bring ME into the WE.

[VIDEO / Funeral speech]

I walk with people today that I would have walked away from yesterday.

That's the power of the cross; the power of a kingdom where people chose to move past ME into the WE.

Let's pray.