

THE BIG IDEA: We must bow the knee in the Kingdom of He.

The Take-Off

As I told you last week, we're taking these few weeks between our Filters series and The Elephant in the Room series to do a couple of Stand Alone Messages

These are messages that carry the weight of the "now word" from God that don't necessarily fit in a series (or sometimes interrupt a series).

If you missed last week's message called "Enough" you can access it on our website - and you need to!

It's such a powerful message about what happens when Jesus is enough in our lives - very prophetic in nature

This morning is no different.

I started making notes about this topic all the way back at the end of 2019 - and God recently stirred it up

Here's the deal, though. Even though it's been percolating that long, there's so much that I know God is developing

So I'm sharing what I have this morning and trusting the Holy Spirit to give all of us greater insights as we let this word marinate in our body

Here we go. Let's talk about The Three Kingdoms.

1. The Kingdom of Me

- a. This won't surprise anyone, but the most popular and fastest growing kingdom is **The Kingdom of Me**
- b. David Brooks, a cultural commentator who writes for The New York Times, wrote this in his book, "The Road to Character," about the shift from a humble culture to what he calls The Big Me culture:
When the elder George Bush, who was raised in that era, was running for president, he, having inculcated the values of his childhood, resisted speaking about himself. If a speechwriter put the word "I" in one of his speeches, he'd instinctively cross it out. The staff would beg him: You're running for president. You've got to talk about yourself. Eventually they'd cow him into doing so. But the next day he'd get a call from his mother. "George, you're talking about yourself again," she'd say. And Bush would revert to form. No more I's in the speeches. No more self-promotion. Over the next few years I collected data to suggest that we have seen a broad shift from a culture of humility to the culture of what you might call the Big Me, from a culture that encouraged people to think humbly of themselves to a culture that encouraged people to see themselves as the center of the universe. It wasn't hard to find such data. For example, between 1948 and 1954, psychologists asked more than 10,000 adolescents whether they considered themselves to be a very important person. At that point, 12 percent said yes. The same question was revisited in 1989, and this time it wasn't 12 percent who considered themselves very important, it was 80 percent of boys and 77 percent of girls. Psychologists have a thing called the narcissism test. They read people statements and ask if the statements apply to them. Statements such as "I like to be the center of attention...I show off if I get the chance because I am extraordinary...Somebody should write a biography about me." The median narcissism score has risen 30 percent in the last two decades. Ninety-three percent of young people score higher than the middle score just twenty years ago.
- c. Wouldn't it be great if we could say that this is a world problem or even just a Millennial and Gen Z problem? But it's not.
- d. They got it from us. From an older generation who bought the trophies that all of them got and from a church that made it all about us.
- e. **[VIDEO Me Church]**
- f. Here are some characteristics of The Kingdom of Me: **[IMAGE - Kingdom of Me list]**
 - Marked by self-centeredness
 - Creates enemies
 - Fueled by pride
 - Me vs. the World
 - I am Lord
 - Egos
- g. **2 Timothy 3:1-2 (NLT)** / the first thing mentioned is that they will "love only themselves"
- h. **Romans 2:8 (NLT)** / God's wrath is the destiny for all who live in The Kingdom of Me

2. The Kingdom of We

- a. The second kingdom is **The Kingdom of We**
- b. The dangerous part of this kingdom is that it sounds so right to live for others more than ourselves, and while that's true, that's not what happens in this kingdom
- c. In The Kingdom of We, we don't live for others, but with others who look a lot like me
- d. It's kind of like The Kingdom of Me+!
- e. Here are some characteristics of The Kingdom of We: **[IMAGE - Kingdom of We list]**
 - Marked by self-righteousness
 - Creates rivals
 - Fueled by preference
 - Us vs. the World
 - We are Lord
 - Logos
- f. **Genesis 11:1-7 (NLT)** / note esp. verse 4, whose glory is this tower for? Themselves!

3. The Kingdom of He

- a. The third kingdom is **The Kingdom of He**
- b. Ultimately, this is the kingdom that we want to be in and live for
- c. Here are some characteristics of The Kingdom of He: **[IMAGE - Kingdom of He list]**
 - Marked by self-denial
 - Creates a mosaic **[IMAGES - Kobe Bryant and then Face of Jesus]**
 - Fueled by presence
 - Heaven in the World
 - He is Lord
 - Zeros
- d. **1 Corinthians 12:18 (NIV)** / there's a lot of us and each of us is placed by God where God wants us to be
- e. In this kingdom, we don't get to call the shots anymore
- f. It is the only kingdom that requires our death
- g. **Luke 9:23 (NLT)** / give up your own way - a call to die

The Landing

Here's our Big Idea: **We must bow the knee in the Kingdom of He.**

I'm calling you to do just that.

Make Him Lord, let Him call the shots, lose it all and gain everything.

Let's pray