



EDISON
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THE KINGDOM OF GOD

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MINISTRY

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CONTENT

- ~~I. Church Trends in a Postmodern and Post-Christian Culture~~
- ~~II. The Missing Narrative of the Kingdom~~
- III. The Parables of the Kingdom
- IV. Developing Kingdom Culture
- V. Spirituality of the Kingdom
- VI. Discipleship of the Kingdom
- VII. The Church of the Kingdom



THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

The Teachings about the Kingdom



- Mat 13:31 *He gave them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.*
- Mat 13:32 *It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest garden plant and becomes a tree, so that the wild birds come and nest in its branches."*
- Exegesis
 - Though your actions of Compassion may seem small, the cumulative impact grows exponentially
 - Practice the art of hospitality, have compassion, give hope, share what the Lord has done in your life and trust the Lord....

THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

The Parable of the
Mustard Seed

Mark 4:30-32

Luke 13:18-19

- Mat 13:33 *He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour until all the dough had risen.”*
- Exegesis
 - This parable teaches the **invisible** character of God’s activity.
 - Additionally the **Internal** character of the Kingdom exhibits the **external** results
 - Random kind actions are transformative for the recipient.

INVISIBLE CATALYSTS

The Parables of
the Leaven

Luke 13:21

- Mat 13:44 *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."*
- Mat 13:45 *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls."*
- Mat 13:46 *When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."*
- Exegesis
 - **The Kingdom requires an exchange:**
 - This is the renunciation which is always needed for entering the kingdom
 - Paul gave up Judaism, Matthew-wealth, Barnabas-lands.
 - Once you understand the Kingdom, it will reshape the way you do ministry.

COUNT THE COST

The Parables of
the Hidden
Treasure & the
Pearl of Great
Value

- Mat 13:47 *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea that caught all kinds of fish.*
- Mat 13:48 *When it was full, they pulled it ashore, sat down, and put the good fish into containers and threw the bad away.*
- Mat 13:49 *It will be this way at the end of the age. Angels will come and separate the evil from the righteous*
- Mat 13:50 *and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

GOOD & BAD PEOPLE

Exegesis:

You'll find all sorts of people in church, mostly good and some bad.

It will be like that until the Lord's return

- Mat 13:51 *“Have you understood all these things?” They replied, “Yes.”*
- Mat 13:52 *Then he said to them, “Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure what is new and old.”*
- Exegesis
 - The disciples had gained this treasure through Jesus’ instruction
 - so they were able to understand and use the best of older wisdom,
 - as well as the new insights that Jesus brought to them.
 - True practitioners see the value of both the old life and the new life in Christ..

DEVELOPING A NEW UNDERSTANDING

The Parable of New and Old Treasures

- Mat 20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.
- Mat 20:2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.
- Mat 20:3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.
- Mat 20:4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.'
- Mat 20:5 So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

THE FIRSTS SHALL BE LAST

The Parable of the
Laborers

- Mat 20:9 "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.
- Mat 20:10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.
- Mat 20:11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.
- Mat 20:12 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'
- Mat 20:13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?'

**THE FIRSTS
SHALL BE LAST**

BY THIS PARABLES, JESUS WAS TEACHING THAT REWARDS ARE UNDER THE SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF GOD

Parable of the Laborers

- Mat 20:15 *Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?*
- Mat 20:16 *"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."*

Parable of the Two Sons

- Matthew 21:31 (NET)
- Which of the two did his father's will?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "**I tell you the truth, tax collectors and prostitutes will go ahead of you into the kingdom of God!**"

- Mat 25:1 *"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom."*
- Mat 25:2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.
- Mat 25:3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.
- Mat 25:4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

EXPECTATIONS...

The Parables of the Ten Virgins

In this parable, Jesus pictured the Kingdom of Heaven being offered to those who might be least expected to enter it

- Mat 25:11 "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'"
- Mat 25:12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'"
- Mat 25:13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."
- Exegesis
 - Israel therefore is pictured as 10 virgins who are awaiting the return of the bridegroom
 - This parable has nothing to do with the church.

EXPECTATIONS...

Occupy yourself in the kingdom.

- Mat 13:24 He presented them with another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a person who sowed good seed in his field.
- Mat 13:25 But while everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and sowed darnel among the wheat and went away.
- Mat 13:26 When the plants sprouted and produced grain, then the darnel also appeared.
- Mat 13:27 So the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the darnel come from?’
- Mat 13:28 He said, ‘An enemy has done this!’ So the slaves replied, ‘Do you want us to go and gather it?’
- Mat 13:29 But he said, ‘No, since in gathering the darnel you may uproot the wheat along with it.
- Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burned, but then gather the wheat into my barn.””

GOOD & EVIL

The Parable of the Weeds

The good and the evil are often undistinguishable in the visible Church.

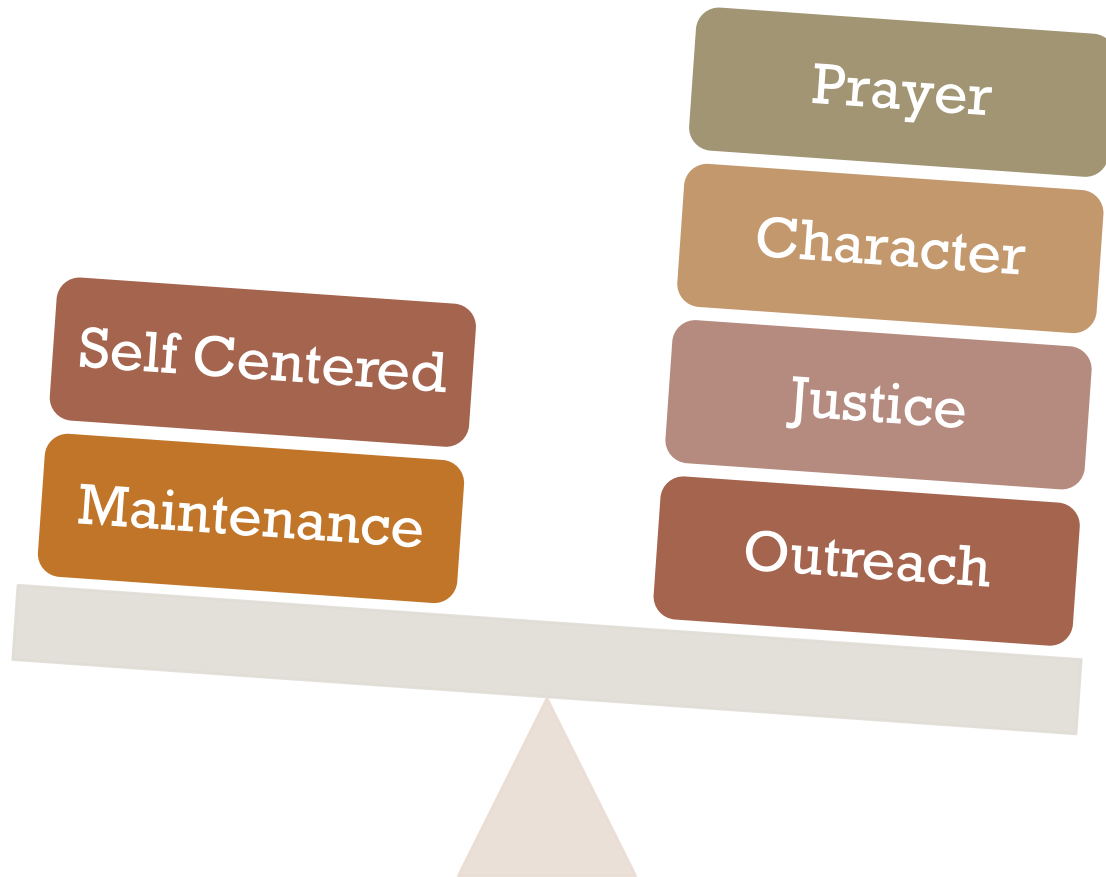


DEVELOPING KINGDOM CULTURE

Prayer, Righteousness, Integrity, Priorities, Action,
Hospitality, Outreach

**Church
Culture**

**Kingdom
Culture**



- Mat 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
- Mat 6:10 **your kingdom come**, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- Mat 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.
- Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- Mat 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

PRAYER

The Only prayer
Jesus taught the
disciples

*Prayer is a sign of
rebellion against
the kosmos' status
quo*

If you want change:
Pray

Prayer as a lifestyle

- Mat 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for **righteousness**, for they will be satisfied.
- Mat 5:10 “**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness**, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.
 - The final beatitude concerned persecution because of the Son of Man.
 - This was to become a natural course of events for the apostles.
 - They would be hated, excluded, insulted, and rejected. Yet they would be happy (“blessed”) because of their reward in heaven and because they were following in the train of the prophets.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

The term “blessed” (makarioi) was common in the Gospels;

it occurs more than 30 times.

All but 2 of the occurrences are in Matthew and Luke

A life style characterized by doing Good

- **Mat 5:14** "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.
- **Mat 5:15** No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.
- **Mat 5:16** In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

BUILDING CHARACTER

The Light
shines in the
the darkness

The Kingdom
demands
interaction with
the darkness.

- **Act 1:3** During the forty days after His crucifixion, He appeared to the apostles from time to time, and He proved to them in many ways that He was actually alive. And **He talked to them about the Kingdom of God.**
- **Mat 6:33** **Seek the Kingdom of God** above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.
 - **What is most important to you?**

REASSESSING PRIORITIES

Let GO, Let GOD

Anxiety must be dispelled by prayer and trust.

Trust that the almighty will provide.

Luke 12:31, John 6:27

- Mat 25:37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see You hungry and feed You? Or thirsty and give You something to drink?'
- Mat 25:38 Or a stranger and show You hospitality? Or naked and give You clothing?'
- Mat 25:39 When did we ever see You sick or in prison and visit You?'
- Mat 25:40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, **when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!**'

THE KINGDOM IN ACTION

Works of
Compassion

Hospitality

Visiting the
sick

Visiting the
incarcerated

- Luk 14:13 But when you give a banquet, invite **the poor**, the **crippled**, **the lame**, **the blind**
- In Luke 14:16-24.....
- "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'
Luk 14:21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in **the poor**, **the crippled**, **the blind** and **the lame**.'

HOSPITALITY

Mat. 14:14-21

Mat. 15:32-39

Act. 2:44-45

Rom. 12:13-16

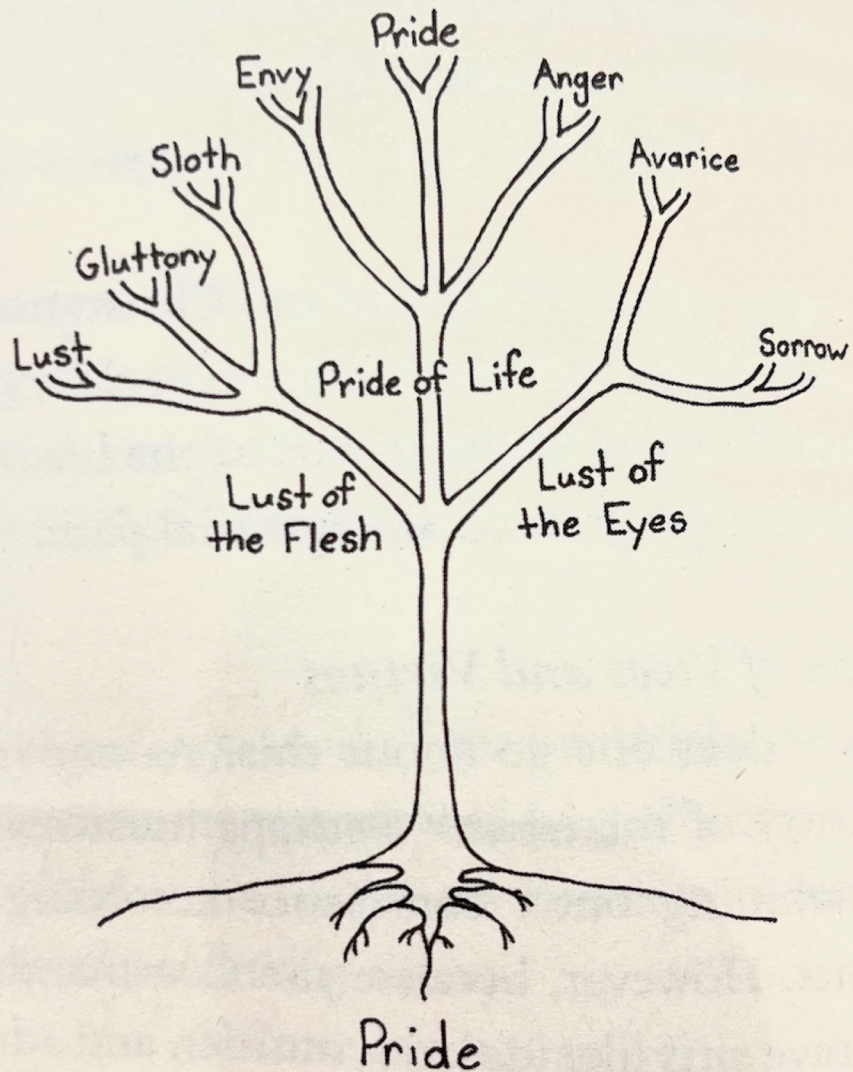
Heb. 13:2

- Mat 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness (**dikaioσune**) goes beyond that of the experts in the law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven!
- The Pharisees righteousness:
 - They were notorious for separating themselves from sinners
 - They prayed constantly (Lk 18:10-14)
 - They were excellent tithers
 - They were experts of the Law
 - What was missing?
 - Thayer: righteousness, the condition acceptable to God
 - 1a) the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, **integrity**, **virtue**, **purity of life**, **rightness**, **correctness of thinking** **feeling**, and acting

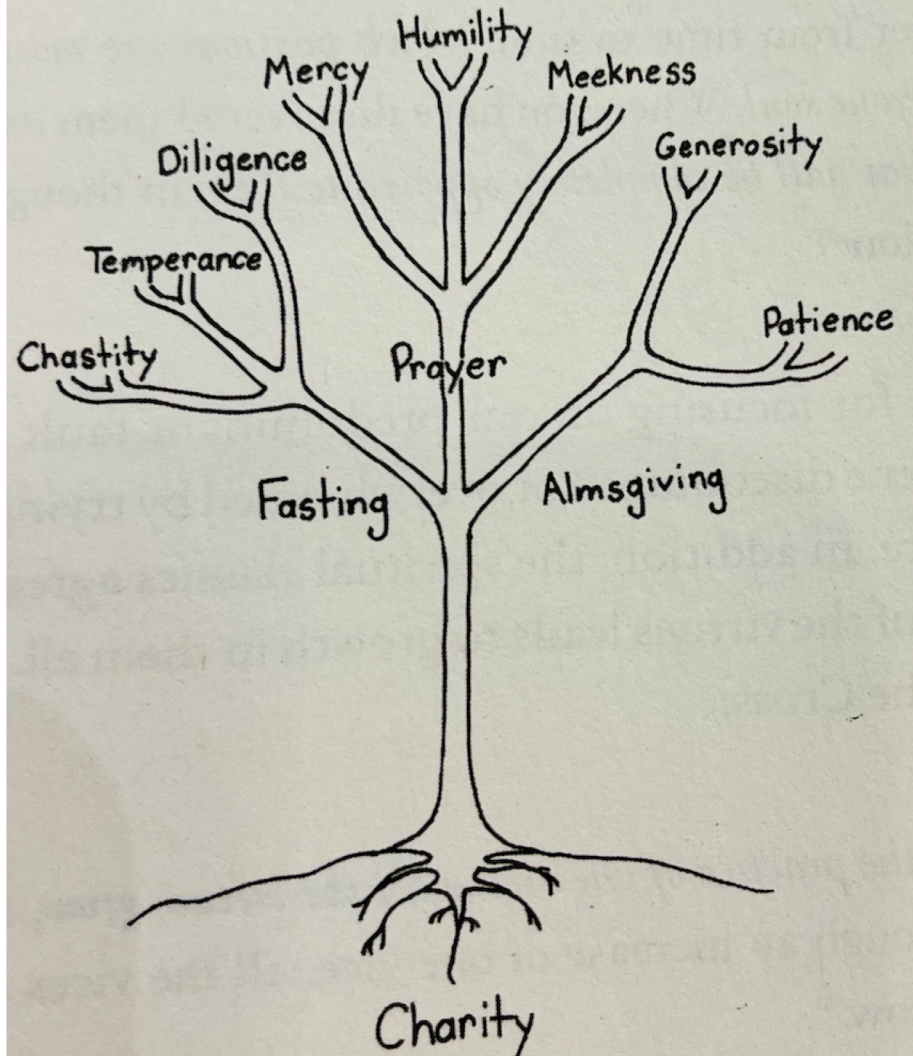
INTEGRITY

Luk 11:39 Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

The Evil Tree



The Good Tree



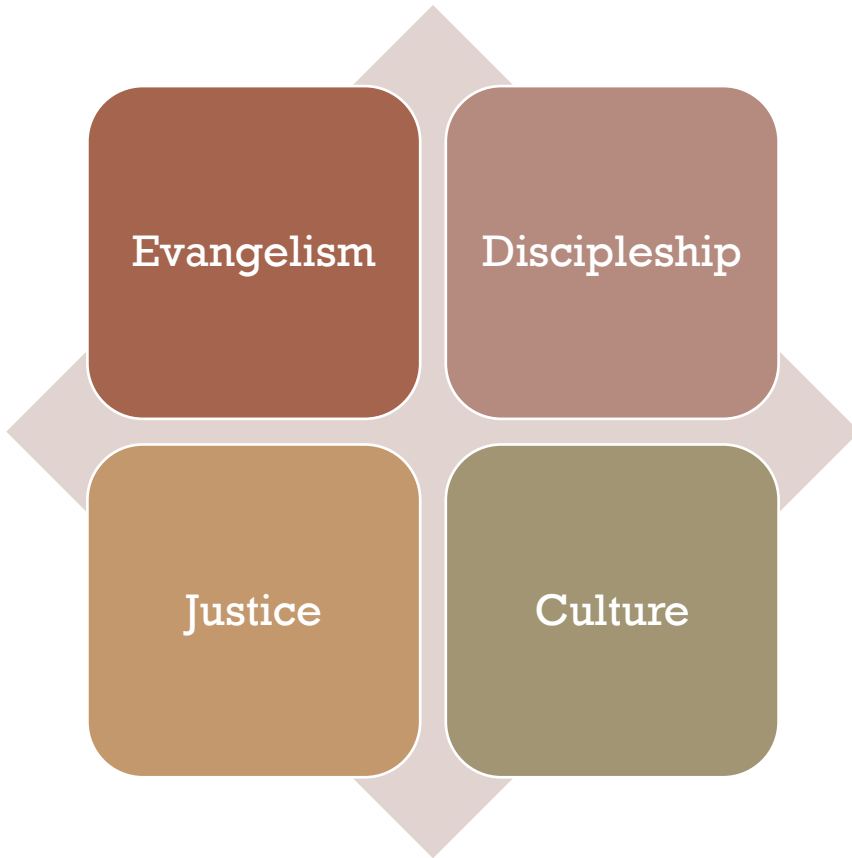
- Mat 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and **forceful (biastēs)** people lay hold of it.

- **Mounce:** Βιαστής, biastēs
 - 1x: one who uses violence, or is impetuous; one who is forceful in eager pursuit, Mat 11:12.
- Exegesis
 - Cambridge Bible: *The eager and enthusiastic followers of Christ seize the kingdom—win it as a prize of war.*
 - The disciple must be willing to consider the cost of following Christ and pursue the expansion of the Kingdom regardless of the opposition.

FORCEFUL PEOPLE

Jesus was explaining that as his Kingdom advanced, attacks against it by violent people would increase.

John the Baptist, as herald of the arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven, was already experiencing the attacks of evil men (Herod) against God's Kingdom.



FOUR DIMENSIONS OF THE KINGDOM

Evangelism:

Isa. 53:6; Act 3:9

Discipleship:

Deut. 8:6; Mt. 8:20

Justice:

Isa. 58:6; Mt. 6:33

Culture:

Isa. 51:4; Lk. 2:32

PENETRATING THE CULTURE: EVANGELISM & OUTREACH

1. The Proclamation of the Gospel is the net being cast over people.

2. The Delegated power allow us ***to minister to the sick and to free the spiritual oppressed.***

3. Our Compassion is an extension of God's care over people.

