

CA 38 TFP4 THE KINGDOM MENTALITY

Music theme

FOSTER: When I was a boy, I used to play a game called “King of the Hill.” For those of you who may not know the game, you played the game outside on a pile of dirt. There was only room for one person on the top of the pile of dirt. So the goal of the game was to make it to the top and stay there by pushing other people off. If you were able to stay on the top, you were the King of the Hill.

However, because a bunch of boys played at the same time, and everyone was trying to push the boy off the top—so they could be king—your kingship usually only lasted a short time. But it sure was fun while it lasted.

Welcome to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and I’m with Kent Darcie. I’m reminisced about being a King for a moment, because today we are going to talk about God’s kingdom which reigns forever, but like those boys in my childhood, Satan wants to push God off the top of the hill and set up his kingdom. In our last program we spoke about living a biblical worldview. Today we’re going to look at the importance of having a kingdom mentality. You won’t want to miss this discussion so please stay with us here at Champions Arise.

Music Theme in – 5 SECS.

FOSTER: Kent did you ever play “King of the Hill?”

KENT: Definitely. When you were talking about that, it brought back some fun memories. It’s amazing, back then, how you could have so much fun with such simple things.

FOSTER: and you got fresh air and exercise. And you were playing with other boys...

KENT: It was great. The boys today, at least in the western cultures, are missing this type of fun. But we’re not here today to talk about dirt versus electronic gadgets.

FOSTER: Maybe on another program.

KENT: Yes. That would be an interesting topic, but today we want to look at having a kingdom mentality. God has a kingdom. The Apostle Paul wrote, “*For he [God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*” (Col 1:13.14.)” So as Christians, we are part of God’s Kingdom.

FOSTER: But in our last program, we discussed that, although we may *believe* we have a biblical worldview, we may not *act* like we have a biblical worldview. Is that the same when it comes to having a Kingdom Mentality?

KENT: I think so, but partly for a different reason. When we pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven,” I don’t think most of us understand what “kingdom” means.

FOSTER: Why is that?

KENT: Because most of us don’t live in a kingdom. And many who have kings or queens, they don’t legislate. They don’t make laws. So they don’t have direct authority over the lives of the people like kings in the past did.

Hebrews 10:31 says, *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*

FOSTER: Because God is King and He has absolute authority.

KENT: Yes. And we see glimpses of what it’s like to live under a king in the Bible. One example is when Pontius Pilate questioned Jesus. Pilate asks Jesus all these questions and Jesus doesn’t answer him. And Pilate gets frustrated and says, *“You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”*

Think about what happened next, Jesus was innocent, and Pilate, acting with the King’s authority, killed Him.

FOSTER: I’m reminded of what happened when Mary was pregnant with Jesus and Caesar Augustus decreed that everyone was to be counted for a census—but in their own town. So all these people—because the king wanted it—had to stop what they were doing and travel—mostly by foot—to wherever they were born. For Joseph and Mary, that meant going from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which were 80 miles apart. That was a 4 to 7 day journey,

KENT: because the king said so.

FOSTER: Because the King said so.

KENT: I’m thinking about the incident with King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. It’s in 1 Kings 21. King Ahab wanted a garden that was owned by a man named Naboth. Naboth wouldn’t give it to him, so Queen Jezebel had Naboth killed.

Most of us can’t relate to someone having that kind of complete authority over us. However, when we accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, we submitted our lives to God and said, “You are my King.”

FOSTER: Which means God has the ultimate authority over us.

KENT: Yes, but the amazing thing—the incredible thing—the life-changing thing—is our God is a benevolent God. He loves us and wants what is best for us. So following Him and submitting to Him, is in our best interest. Because God knows and wants what is best for us. Jeremiah 29 verse 11 says, *“For I know the plans I have for you,”*

declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

FOSTER: That really is amazing and we can be thankful that this is the kind of God and King we have the privilege to serve.

KENT: And it goes beyond serving. Throughout human history, there have always been those who were fiercely loyal to their nations, or tribes, or organizations. They were loyal to the point that they were willing to fight and die for them. This fierce loyalty is referred to as a “kingdom mentality.” So our kingdom mentality should be a fierce loyalty to God.

FOSTER: Which brings us back to what we said earlier. We *should* have a fierce loyalty to God. But there’s another kingdom that is also fighting for us *and against us* that we’ll look at in a moment, but you’re listening to Champions Arise. We’re so glad you joined us today. I’m Foster Braun and I’m speaking with Kent Darcie and we’re discussing the importance of having a “Kingdom mentality.”

Kent, the Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of truth and light and it stands in direct opposition to another kingdom, Satan’s kingdom, which is a kingdom of lies and darkness.

KENT: Yes, these two kingdoms are in conflict. Satan is the enemy of God and is constantly trying to lure us to follow him and his ways. The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 2 verse 16, “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*”

But the Apostle Paul challenged the Christians in Rome, who were living in a very sinful time. He wrote in Romans 12 verse 2. “*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*”

FOSTER: And when Paul writes about “the pattern of this world” he’s basically referring to Satan’s Kingdom. And I understand that, but what does having a “Kingdom Mentality” really mean?

KENT: Let’s look at five qualities of someone with a Kingdom Mentality. First, they believe what it says in 2 Timothy 3:16, “*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong, and teaches us to do what is right.*”

A Christian with a Kingdom mentality does their best to live their life according to what the Bible teaches. And, I might add, regardless of the cost.

FOSTER: So the first quality of a Christian with a Kingdom Mentality is they stand on the truth of the Bible. What is the second quality?

KENT: A Christian with a Kingdom Mentality will share the truth of the Bible—starting with God’s offer of salvation. One of the things we see in the New Testament is that people who accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, wanted to lead their family, friends, and anyone they met out of Satan’s kingdom of darkness, and into God’s Kingdom of truth and eternal life. It was not something they had to do. It was part of a grateful and loving heart that realized they had been freed from Satan’s kingdom of darkness by God’s love through His Son Jesus Christ.

FOSTER: And what is the third quality of a Christian with a Kingdom Mentality?

KENT: They care about the ones God cares about. In Matthew 25 Jesus described them as the “*least of these*.” Foster, throughout the Bible we see God’s concern for the widows, the fatherless, the orphans, and the disadvantaged. In fact, Jesus tells a story that actually shows someone who has a Kingdom mentality versus two others who you’d think had a kingdom mentality, but didn’t—in God’s eyes.

This is from Luke chapter 10. Many of you will recognize this as the parable of the Good Samaritan, but let’s look at it from the perspective of who had God’s Kingdom mentality and who didn’t. Foster can you read Luke Chapter 10 verses 30-36 please.

FOSTER: Sure, “*A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He fell into the hands of bandits who stripped off his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. A Levite also came on the scene and when he saw him, he too passed by on the other side. But then a Samaritan traveler came along to the place where the man was lying, and at the sight of him he was touched with pity. He went across to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own mule, brought him to an inn and did what he could for him. Next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the inn-keeper with the words, ‘Look after him, will you? I will pay you back whatever more you spend, when I come through here on my return.’ Which of these three seems to you to have been a neighbor to the bandits’ victim?*” [PHILLIPS]

KENT: Our question would be “which of the three had a Kingdom Mentality?” cares for the less fortunate? As men, we have to go beyond saying, that’s a good story. A man with a Kingdom Mentality is a doer—a godly man of action.

FOSTER: These qualities of men with a Kingdom mentality are very interesting. What is the fourth one?

KENT: A Christian man with a Kingdom Mentality takes action in the face of injustice. He is a voice for the oppressed and uses his influence to try to correct injustices.

FOSTER: And the fifth quality?

KENT: The fifth quality of a Christian man with a Kingdom Mentality is he has an eternal perspective. 1 John 5 verses 11-13 say, *“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”*

When we know that we have all eternity with God, because of our confession of Jesus Christ as our Lord, we don't have to worry over the challenges and trials of this world. And our peace will attract others to the salvation offered by God through Jesus Christ

FOSTER: Kent, I find our times together on these programs very challenging and today was not an exception. Can you give us a brief review of our discussion please?

KENT: Sure Foster, I've found these discussions challenging too. Today, we talked about the characteristics of a King, and the importance of choosing God's Kingdom over Satan's. We also discussed that Christians with a kingdom mentality have five qualities. they:

- Stand on the word of God
- Share the Gospel of Christ
- Minister to the less fortunate
- Stand against injustice and
- Have an eternal perspective.

FOSTER: Thanks Kent for challenging us to be men who live our lives as men with a Kingdom mentality.

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Program Close

FOSTER: Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed the importance of living a life that reflects a commitment to God's Kingdom. This material was based on material from the book “The Four Priorities,” by Dr. John Tolson and Larry Kreider which is published by “The Gathering USA” in 2007 and used by permission. You can learn more about this book and listen to any of these programs at our website championsarise.org. I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

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Closing ID

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