



TEACHING

## Kingdom Rise Campaign – Sermon Outlines

### Kingdom Rise :: Week 1 – What is Our Story?

*(Use corresponding short film for week 1 as sermon bump or intro for sermon)*

**Text: Isaiah 65:17-18; Colossians 1:19-20**

### Kingdom Rise :: Week 2 – What is Worship?

*(Use corresponding short film for week 2 as sermon bump or intro for sermon)*

**Text: Romans 1:21-23,25; John 4:19-24; Romans 12:1-2**

### Kingdom Rise :: Week 3 – We are Worship.

*(Use corresponding short film for week 3 as sermon bump or intro for sermon)*

**Text: Isaiah 58:1-10; Colossians 3:1-2**

### Kingdom Rise :: Week 4 – Life Before Death... Kingdom Living.

*(Use corresponding short film for week 4 as sermon bump or intro for sermon)*

**Text: Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1:13-14; Matthew 6:9-13**



## **Kingdom Rise :: Week 1 – What is Our Story?**

*(Use corresponding short film for week 1 as sermon bump or intro for sermon)*

### **1. Intro with your own story on perspective or use the following short illustration:**

Dear Mom and Dad:

Since I left for college I have been remiss in writing and I am sorry for my thoughtlessness in not having written before. I will bring you up to date now, but before you read on, please sit down. You are not to read any further unless you are sitting down. Okay?

Well then, I am getting along pretty well now. The skull fracture and the concussion I got when I jumped out of the window of my dormitory when it caught fire shortly after my arrival here is pretty well healed now. I only spent two weeks in the hospital and now I can see almost normally and only get those sick headaches once a day. Fortunately, the fire in the dormitory and my jump were witnessed by an attendant at the gas station near the dorm, and he was the one who called the Fire Department and the ambulance. He also visited me in the hospital, and since I have nowhere to live because of the burned-out dormitory, he was kind enough to invite me to share his apartment with him. It's really a basement room, but it is kind of cute.

He is a very fine boy and we have fallen deeply in love and are planning on getting married. We haven't got the date exactly yet, but it will be before my pregnancy begins to show. Yes mother and Dad, I am pregnant. I know how much you are looking forward to being grandparents and I know that you will welcome the baby and give it the same love and devotion and tender care you gave me when I was a child. The reason for the delay in our marriage is that my boyfriend has a minor infection which prevents us from passing our premarital blood tests and I carelessly caught it from him.

I know that you will welcome him into our family with open arms. He is kind, and, although he is of a different race and religion than ours, I know your often-expressed tolerance will not permit you to be bothered by that.

Now that I have brought you up to date, I want to tell you that there was no dormitory fire, I did not have a concussion or skull fracture, I was not in the hospital, I am not pregnant, I am not engaged, I am not infected and there is no boyfriend in my life.

However, I am getting a D in Calculus and F in Chemistry and I want you to see those marks in their proper perspective.

Your loving daughter, Susie

### **2. Perspective matters.**

- We all see things from the place where we are... In one sense, the only point of view we can have is our own.
- But, today, our task is to appreciate others points of view – to mentally put ourselves in someone else's shoes.
- The problem comes when we start to look at bigger issues. Zoom far enough out (the universe), and basically all of us are in the same place.
  - o To every human, it looks as if the planets/stars revolve around us. This was the almost universal worldview of our ancestors.
  - o Everybody thought this way, nobody questioned it until the mid 16th century
  - o Copernicus asked – “What if the earth revolves around the sun?”
  - o Galileo proved – Took all of the observations and made an assertion that the earth revolved around the sun.

### **3. Here's another radical idea... What if you aren't the center of the universe?**

- What if life does not revolve around you?
- What if we are not at the center of the story, but God is?
- In the beginning was God... Creation, fall (Gen. 3) brings selfishness/brokenness, Redemption – Jesus intervened to do something about it.

### **4. Religion is a record of man's experience of God and his attempts to make sense of it.**

- Throughout history, man's point of view to make sense out of the world around him and his views on God.
- Many different religions and many different points of view that we end up adhering to.
- Our point of view doesn't matter because we are not at the center.
  - o God's revelation is the bigger picture
  - o All pointing to Jesus

### **5. God's story is found throughout the pages of Scripture.**

- Old Testament pointing forward to, and New Testament reveals Jesus and His Kingdom

- The Kingdom of God is where God is King and rules and things are the way the King wants them to be
  - o More than having your sins forgiven, but the Kingdom of God is all of creation restored. The way things ought to be.

#### 6. **Isaiah 65:17-18**

- OT glimpse of the future and God's Kingdom
- Not an escape from this world, but seeing this world healed and fixed
- Everything that is wrong being put right in the Kingdom of God
- A world that is fixed and healed through Jesus
- What once was a hope is now becoming a reality in our world because God entered the world in the person of His Son, Jesus
  - o **Colossians 1:19-20**

#### 7. **Life is not about us.**

- We are part of a bigger story
- A story in which God is the hero and not us
- We are in His story
- Life without Jesus is not life
- **Who is the hero in the story you are living?**
- **Who does your life revolve around?**
- **Isn't it a time for a change of perspective?**



## **Kingdom Rise :: Week 2 – What is Worship?**

*(Use corresponding short film for week 2 as sermon bump or intro for sermon)*

1. **Intro: Find a story about your local sports team and use this to bring up the reality that for our culture... sports is often times an idol in which we worship.**
2. **We are made to worship.**
  - From the very beginning.
  - Everyone is a worshipper.
  - It's what we do. Every single person whether religious or irreligious actively worships someone or something
3. **In the Bible, however, we find where this innate desire to worship is to be directed...**
  - We find that we were created by the Creator to worship the Creator.
4. **Romans 1:21-23,25**
  - But once sin comes into the world, we find ourselves preferring to worship the creation rather than the Creator
  - We start ascribing worth to things other than God, and our worship terminates in these things.
  - **The issue is therefore, not are we worshippers? But, what are we worshipping?**
5. **What is worship?**
  - To ascribe worth or value
  - To fall down (greek – proskuneo)
  - To bow down (Hebrew – shacha)
  - Biblical definition of worship (from Matt.22:37) = **Biblical worship is the full-life response-head, heart, and hands-to who God is and what He has done.**
6. **John 4:19-24**
  - ***The Divine Presence of God (Shekinah) had always been in the Temple in Jerusalem...***
  - You would go to the Temple **to meet with God**
  - You would go to the Temple **to worship God**
  - You would go to the Temple **to become right with God (sacrifice and offerings)**
  
  - *But here, Jesus said:*
  - I am God and I am telling you that this is no longer the case.
  - Through ME, you can worship in Spirit and in Truth – from anywhere.
  - Worship is not dependent upon a place, a style, or a time
  - It comes by way of Jesus' death/resurrection and involves the believer's entire life
  
  - Jesus = "No Longer will you go to the Temple to offer sacrifice in order to worship God, but now your entire lives are to be worship. I will transform your hearts to be the altar and your lives to be the sacrifice."
  - **Worship is now... Not an event, but a life.**
    - o **Romans 12:1-2** (how you live can and should be worship)
7. **What this means practically is:**
  - #1 Your Monday through Saturday (how you live) is just as important to God as is being here (in Church) right now.
  - #2 The way that you LIVE WORSHIP will be the barometer of your faith... Not how many times you attend a worship service.

*"The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless." – Billy Graham*

## **8. Prayer Response:**

- **In the season that you are currently in... Who or what is the object of your worship? What needs to be done about this? What steps needs to be taken so that Jesus can reclaim the supreme position in your heart?**



## **Kingdom Rise :: Week 3 – We are Worship.**

*(Use corresponding short film for week 3 as sermon bump or intro for sermon)*

1. **What is your idea of Heaven on earth? Describe what Heaven on earth looks like for you using a story or illustration.** (Can be a personal story, humorous joke, vacation destination, a story of your dream day/week, etc.)
2. **Heaven in Scripture:**
  - Heaven is where God rules and His will is exercised
3. **Isaiah 58:1-10**
  - We find the people of God desiring to live the ways God commands... to live according to His rules.
  - However, their complaint is that they are doing all of the religious stuff, but God still seems distant.
  - They feel as if God is not listening to them!
  - But, what God spells out for Israel is that he is looking for righteousness, not religion.
  - What God's people do in worship ceremonies has little sway with God if it is not matched by how they conduct themselves the rest of the week.
  - The issue Isaiah raises: People are giving the appearance of seeking God, but offering no change when it comes to how they live their lives (exploiting the poor, lack of concern for the oppressed)
  - For God, worship is meant to be a lifestyle, not an event.
4. **Worship as practical, sacrificial living:**
  - **Romans 12:1-2**
  - Spending yourself on behalf of another who has no means of giving back to you.
  - Acting justly in our daily lives
  - We all have choices over our time, money, relationships, but the key is to make them in response of God's love for us.
  - Living incarnationally like Jesus, being like Him, doing what He would do, challenging what He would challenge, identifying with the people He associated with
5. **Shalom**
  - The Hebrew word "*Shalom*" is translated as = peace, wholeness, the way things ought to be
  - In Genesis 1 – Shalom was created in the garden and all was right – the way it was supposed to be
  - Genesis 3 – Shalom was broken by sin, and we now live in a world where shalom has been broken
  - In Jesus, spiritual shalom is restored and peace/wholeness is experienced...
    - o Jesus compels us to be agents of bringing shalom to the places where it is absent in our world
    - o Righting the wrongs of sin in our society (Justice)
    - o Partnering with Jesus as we seek to live lives who engage in bringing shalom to the broken world around us
    - o There is no shalom where people suffer exploitation, are marginalized, isolated, vulnerable, etc.
6. **Colossians 3:2**
  - Worship as a lifestyle is a day-by-day call to live from God's perspective, seeing things through His eyes.
  - **What would doing justice look like in the community where you live and work?**
  - **What priorities need to be reordered so that you could engage in these areas?**
  - Where justice is exercised, it is there that God's light dawns (**Isaiah 58:10**)
  - Christ's light dispels the darkness, and his people are light bringers to the dark places

**What does it mean to be living as Light in your community?**

**How can you actively make a stand against injustice in your everyday life?**

Helen Keller said, "I cannot do everything. But still I can do something, and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do."



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## **Kingdom Rise :: Week 4 – Life Before Death... Kingdom Living.**

*(Use corresponding short film for week 4 as sermon bump or intro for sermon)*

1. **Intro: Let's start with a show of hands. Who in here is British? American? (Use appropriate nationality for your context)**
  - Being a citizen of a specific country makes gives you certain rights and duties.
  - Ability to get a passport, travel throughout the country uninterrupted, ability to vote, defend your country in the armed forces, apply for and hold a job, etc...
2. **Citizenship in ancient Rome**
  - Citizenship was the single most important factor regarding society in the entire Empire.
  - Roman citizen = protection, privileges, liberties, status that outsiders (pilgrims) did not have.
  - A citizen could make a will, sue people, marry, vote, travel, like having a British passport in the early 20th century
  - This is in a day and age where universal human rights did not exist... Citizenship guaranteed you things, and being a pilgrim, migrant, or slave gave you fewer and no rights
  - Where you stand status wise is of upmost importance in this society - and jumping statuses was unheard of.
  - Citizenship a matter of security and identity in Paul's time in Rome
    - o Everyone else was 2<sup>nd</sup> class and considered a slave, outsider, or foreigner... even if you lived in Rome
  - Non-Citizens were assumed to be thieves, swindlers, and those you cannot trust = basically seen as criminals
3. **The Apostle Paul was a Roman citizen**
  - Came from a wealthy family... and at one point in his life was very proud of his Roman citizenship. It got him a job and status as the *leader of a terrorist snatch squad before He became a Christian* (Road to Damascus)
  - **Paul has a dramatic conversion experience – finds Jesus... then starts talking and behaving radically different about Citizenship.**
  - **Philippians 3:20**
  - **Colossians 1:13-14**
  - Something has trumped Paul's Roman Citizenship... and it is Jesus... The Kingdom of God, and not Rome, is his new identity.
4. **The first church operated as citizens who were not of this world.**
  - The Christians were accepting everyone. Their communities included a great variety of different statuses. Citizens of Rome and slaves of Rome (once they found Jesus) were together... in community; sharing a common table
  - In fact, in a Mediterranean city, the town meeting where citizens would come to vote and decide things for the city... this citizen's assembly was called the "ecclesia."
  - Christians took this name, "ecclesia," and redefined it.
  - **Church = Ecclesia = the town meeting to which everyone can go...**
  - Not just the citizens, but the new citizens (in God's eyes it open to everyone)
5. **Matthew 6:9-13**
  - When Jesus was on earth, He taught his followers to pray this prayer.
  - May the Father's Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, and that His followers would take part in making this reality.
  - The Gospel story is the story of Jesus becoming king... Redeeming for Himself a people, giving them a new identity, a new citizenship... And that is true for us today!
  - If you are a follower of Jesus = YOU ARE A SON OF THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE AND A CITIZEN OF HIS KINGDOM
6. **Empire building.**
  - I find it fascinating that when Jesus refers to His Father's rule as a Kingdom it is in direct contrast to the 1<sup>st</sup> century term "empire" that was used by the Romans of the day.
  - Many scholars believe that Jesus knew exactly what he was doing when he did this...
  - Empires (Romans) pursued growth and influence by the sword
  - The Emperor was seen as God on earth = dictator who exploited his power for more power

7. **Jesus has saved us, but WE are prone to Empire building.** Jesus died to not only save us from something (sin/hell), but for something.

- Consequently, we make up the what we are living FOR (for ourselves) = **Our own Empires.**
- We build for ourselves. We expand our territories. We seek to influence.
- Lives, families, jobs, cars, savings, relationships, influence, power, prestige = can all be part of our self-made empires
- **Here's the thing about our Empires... they die when we do.**
- Jesus died so that we can be freed from this cycle of despair.  
**To live as resurrection people, we must give up our Empires.**

8. **Jesus adopts and brings us in to live for the only Kingdom that will truly last.**

9. **PLAY** (the track or have your band play) **the song *Kingdom Rise* off of the *Kingdom Rise EP* and then stand to recite the **CITIZEN'S PRAYER** as an act of unity and allegiance:**

**Citizen's Prayer...**

*The Lord's Prayer (in today's language)*

Our Father who dwells

in the heavens and on the earth,

you are Holy.

May heaven be a greater present reality

here on earth,

And may we choose to join you

in making that happen.

Provide us today

with the things that you think we need,

And may we not take for granted

that which you have already provided.

Forgive us when we don't live as you intend,

And may we be ready to forgive others

when they don't live as we intend.

Guide us in your wisdom

away from the things that would distort us,

And restore the parts in us

that are already distorted.

You are goodness, beauty and truth.

May your love rule always.

Amen