Not Of This World

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INTRODUCTION

- Jesus was continually encouraging people to think spiritually. And obviously that is a struggle for us all who live in a carnal world and in a carnal setting day in and day out.
- Despite being fed by this great miracle from the loaves and fish, they were still not thinking spiritually.
- I want to look with you at one more text that deals with the need to think spiritually, and it has to do with Jesus' words to Pilate about the kingdom.

1 The Kingdom Is Spiritual

Luke 23:42; 1 Corinthians 1:26–27

- The first observation that I would indeed make about this kingdom is that fact that it is spiritual.
- Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. People still struggle to perceive this kingdom and the nature of it.
- Not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.
- This kingdom has to be perceived spiritually.
- One of the problems that we have when our faith languishes, when our discipleship dwindles, is that we are not properly assessing the kingdom.

2 A Kingdom Which Will Endure Forever

Ephesians 5:27

- In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed.
- It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms. But it will itself endure forever.
- Us being here today in the year 2013 is a testimony to the truthfulness of what Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar 2500 years ago.
- There have been a lot of governments preceding it that have come and gone. But this kingdom endures forever.

3 Within Submissive and Yielding Hearts

Luke 17:20–21; Philippians 2:5; Isaiah 66:2

- The nature of Jesus' kingdom being spiritual has to do with a sphere that involves submissive and yielding hearts.
- The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed. Nor will they say, look, here it is, or there it is. For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.

- The sphere of God's new reign is not geographical or national, but within willing hearts.
- We must be lowly and humble in our hearts. We can pay lip service to this kingdom all we want to. But we have to let him reign.

4 Emphasize the Welfare of My Soul

- Number one, this would tell me that I need to emphasize the welfare of my soul above everything else.
- What about resolutions for our mental state? Things that affect our role in the kingdom.
- To be people who more consistently make proper application of the will of God in our lives, who make the center of God's will our home day in and day out.

5 Devalue the Allurements of This World

1 Timothy 6:7–8

- Because of the spiritual nature of this kingdom, that we need to devalue the allurements of this world.
- Avoid undue over much excessive attachment to things here.
- For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
- We need to focus on an exceeding reward that has been promised us that is out of this world.

6 Be Concerned About the King's Assessment

- We need to be far more concerned about the king's assessment of us than the assessment of other people.
- Quit worrying so much about what other people think and concern yourself first and foremost with this. What does the king think?
- There's no one more fair, no one more merciful, no one more loyal than the king.

THE CHALLENGE

He invites you to come into his kingdom. To be called out of darkness and into the kingdom of God's dear son, Colossians 1 and verse 13. Put temptation and yielding to sin as a result. Put it in your past. Let the king reign.

MY NOTES