

Living with “Dual Citizenship”

- **Day One—Read John 12:12-16.**

Can you picture the scene? There are thousands of people converging. Some are coming into Jerusalem with Jesus and others are running out of the city to greet Jesus. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a young donkey with people cheering and crying, “Hosanna! Lord save us!” Jesus knew their shallow excitement would not last.

Pray that we will welcome Jesus into our lives this Easter season to reign in us as king. Pray that his kingdom would come and his will would be done in your life today.

- **Day Two—Read Matthew 6:32-33; 7:24; Luke 9:23-25.**

Think about your “*kingdom*” - the “*range of your affective will*.” I know we don’t have much control, but we do have some. We make choices everyday – how we spend our time, our money, and what really has our focus and attention. Can we really say that we’re building our lives on Jesus? Really?

Pray – Ask God to help you really know your heart and to pursue him and his kingdom above all else.

- **Day Three—Read Romans 13:1; John 19:11; 1 John 5:19.**

What are the challenges we face living in two kingdoms with “dual citizenship?” As we do our best to be good, contributing, “law abiding” citizens, and vote for the best people we can, we know that the kingdoms of this world will fall short of the divine ideal.

Pray – Ask God to help you live here and now with hope for what lies ahead! Let’s seek the Kingdom of God! *Pray* it! *Declare* it! *Bring* it! *Look* for it!

New Life Lessons
March 28th & 29th, 2015
Pastor Ron Salsbury

“Kingdom Confusion”

John 12:12-16; 18:36; Matthew 6:32-33

John 12:12-16 (NIV) ¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!” Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 118:26; Zechariah 3:14-17

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, ¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” Zechariah 9:9

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. John 2:22; 14:26; Luke 24:25-35, 44-48

What Was Going On?

Large crowds were coming to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Jesus recently raised Lazarus from the dead just a few miles away in Bethany. Word spread in Jerusalem that Jesus was coming! There is a convergence of two crowds of people, those approaching Jerusalem with Jesus who had seen the miracle, and those who had heard and were streaming out of Jerusalem to greet Jesus. They believed that *the one who comes in the name of the Lord* was the king of Israel, who would deliver them from Roman rule, establish the kingdom of God, and reign on David’s throne forever. The religious leaders, afraid of their loss of control – their “kingdom,” were already conspiring to kill Jesus. As we will see, there was a great deal of “kingdom confusion.”

What is A Kingdom?

“The range of one’s affective will.” - Dallas Willard

• ***The Kingdom of God/Heaven***

The rule of God on earth and in heaven! Jesus spoke Aramaic. The New Testament writers used different Greek words for the same Aramaic phrase. *The Kingdom of God* and *the Kingdom of Heaven* mean the same thing.

Jesus spoke of “***The Kingdom of the Heavens***”

The *Third* Heaven (Isaiah 6:1)

The *First* Heaven (Psalm 19:1)

The *Second* Heaven (Ephesians 6:12; Acts 11:5-9)

“*The excluded middle*” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

The point is, God reigns *everywhere!*

• ***The Kingdoms of This World***

Romans 13:1b (NIV) ^{1b} There is no authority except that which God has established. **The authorities that exist have been established by God.** Matthew 22:21

John 19:11a (NIV) ^{11a} Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not **given to you from above.**”

1 John 5:19 (NIV) ¹⁹ We know that we are children of God, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one.**

• ***Our Personal “Kingdom”***

Matthew 7:24 (NIV) ²⁴ “Therefore everyone who **hears these words of mine and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who **built his house on the rock.** Proverbs 3:5-6

Luke 9:23-25 (NIV) ²³ Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must **deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** ²⁴ For whoever wants to **save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.** ²⁵ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and **yet lose or forfeit his very self?** Romans 12:1-2

Understanding the Kingdom of God

1. The Kingdom of God is Yet to Come .

Matthew 24:30 (NIV) ³⁰ “**At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.** Luke 17:24

John 18:36 (NIV) ³⁶ Jesus said, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. **But now my kingdom is from another place.**”

2. The Kingdom of God is Here Now.

Mark 1:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ “**The time has come,**” Jesus said. “**The kingdom of God is near.** Repent and believe the good news!” Luke 11:20

Mark 4:11 (NIV) ¹¹ He told them, “**The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you.** But to those on the outside everything is said in parables

3. The Kingdom of God is Hidden.

Matthew 13:44a (NIV) ^{44a} “**The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.** A seed (Matthew 13:31) Yeast (Matthew 13:33)

Seeking the Kingdom of God

Matthew 6:32-33 (NIV) ³² The pagans run after all these (material) things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But **seek first his kingdom** and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 11:12; Luke 16:16

- ***Pray it!*** Matthew 6:9-10 “*Thy kingdom come*”; 18:18-20
- ***Declare it!*** Matthew 6:9-10; 17:19-21; 1 Peter 2:9
- ***Bring it!*** Matthew 5:13-16 We’re *the Light of the World!*
- ***Look for it!*** Matthew 24:30; Revelation 22:12-13