

A Tale of Two Kingdoms

Part 2: The Six Words

APPETIZER: No shortage of possible conflicts...

Review:

Jesus followers are part of his kingdom that is both now and not yet.

We are both foreigners and ambassadors to the other kingdom we live in.

~ 1 Peter 1:17, 1 Peter 2:11, Ephesians 6:19,20, 2 Corinthians 5:20, Colossians 3:17

How do you approach?

1. Selling product that is okay in moderation, but one you know many of your customers tend to overuse?
2. Selling a premium product in order to achieve higher profit margins, knowing a lesser product is good enough?
3. Blaming a supplier or other external problem when you can't deliver, in order to keep a customer?
4. Overvaluing a competitive product offering you wouldn't use in order to gain leverage on an existing supplier to lower costs?
5. Backing a coworker's lie/exaggeration during a customer meeting to gain sales?
6. Highlighting a colleague's weaknesses or taking credit for group work when competing for a promotion?
7. Partying to excess at a conference or staff event in order to network?
8. Loading end of quarter sales to hit bonus sales target?
9. Matching work level expectations to keep your job or stay in contention for a promotion?
10. Backing union demands even when you don't agree; not advocating for other stakeholders in negotiations to keep the peace with colleagues?
11. Creating legislation and policies that could make life harder for 'the least of these' but will keep leaders happy?
12. Positioning the truth in a Press Release so that your company or boss doesn't appear to be at fault for something bad when really they are?
13. Dealing with a personality or agenda clash with a co-worker or manager?
14. Figuring out how to talk about Jesus without being offensive or weird?

DINE IN: Are we ready?

Daniel 3:1-30

1. Start with Allegiance

They pre-determined allegiance and were confident God would save.
~Daniel 1:8, 3:16-17

Also ready if that didn't happen.

~Daniel 3:18

“But even if he does not”

Don't start with your preferred outcome (status/security/success) and plan backwards; start with your allegiance and trust forward.

2. What's a win?

Are the worries of this life and deceitfulness of wealth choking you?
~Matthew 13:22

Jesus' yoke is easy and his burden is light
~Matthew 11:28-30

3. Work in teams

In the face of conflict, Daniel immediately asked for help.
~Daniel 2:17,18

When he succeeded, he kept friends close.
~Daniel 2:49

God was with them, even in the midst of the furnace.
~Daniel 1:17, 2:23, 3:25

He is with us now.
~Matthew 18:20; 28:20

TAKE OUT: Objectives and a team to play with

Next week we'll talk about the external objectives of the Kingdom.

But for now, ask this:

1. When is the last time life felt risky?
2. Do I believe life in Jesus' kingdom is better than life in this kingdom?
3. Am I obligating God to something he might not prioritize?
4. Who am I doing this with? Do I have a Fellowship of Risk?

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what stood out to you – whether lessons learned or lingering questions.
2. Take some time to talk through the scenarios listed in the Appetizer. How would you answer some of these? Are they legitimate concerns in your schooling or work? Are there others you would add to this list?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Daniel 3:1-30**
 - a. As you read, what verse or idea stands out to you? Are there any lingering questions from the passage?
 - b. While it's an extreme life/death situation, are there any aspects of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's story here in chapter 3 that you can relate to? Are there aspects that make using this as a case study seem far-fetched for you?
 - c. What strikes you about their confidence in God's ability to save them in **verse 17**? Have there been times you have made a decision and trusted God even when there is the potential of 'but even if he does not' outcome? When have you had a school or workplace experience like **verse 25** where you have been very aware of God's presence with you in the midst of conflict?
 - d. Have you had seasons in your school or work life when you have become aware that you are being choked by the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth as Jesus talks about in **Matthew 13:22**? Share as you feel comfortable. Have you had seasons when you have been very clear in your prioritizing of the kingdom and been able to deal with conflict well? Don't be modest; share your bravery to inspire others.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Take a few minutes to check in with your huddle on what you talked about and prayed for each other about last week. It can be helpful to write down your answers each week as a huddle in order to remind yourselves of where God is at work in your lives. Set aside time either now or later to check in with the other members of your huddle who are absent.
5. Use your 2/4/6/8 Huddle Questions.

Quotes

Great faith does not claim to know what only God can know; it claims to know the God who knows. Faith is only as great as its object – and the object of biblical faith is God's eternal care, not humans' earthly expectations.
~Bryan Chapell

How can you follow God and thrive in the secular world at the same time? Almost every workplace Christian faces this question daily, and many find the answer so difficult they are tempted to give up.
~Kenneth Mathews

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.
~G.K. Chesterton

Daniel's life makes it clear that God chooses to work most powerfully when his name is most evident. We rob ourselves of God's power when we let circumstances steal his name from our lips. There is never a better time to proclaim God than when the risk seems great because God assumes control of those causes fought in his name.
~Bryan Chapell