



Empowering People to Change the World

Our Kingdom Identity

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Kingdom Identity

Genesis 1:26-31

God creates man in HIS image and gives him the earth to subdue and rule over it. He creates them male and female. God blesses them and says “Be fruitful and multiply...”

- When God creates Adam, it is on the 6th and final day of the creation of the earth and Adam is to be His perfect culmination of creation.
- Adam is the first man, God's perfect design before sin enters the world.
- I don't think Adam will be the most popular guy in heaven by any means but he will most likely be the best looking. Pretty much flawless to the eye.
- The very same could easily be said of Eve, the foxiest fox of foxes, strikingly beautiful...why else would Adam choose her over God in that crucial moment of human history.
 - Men have been recovering from that 'rib-surgery' ever since.
- Both Adam & Eve know their kingdom identity from the beginning because God the Creator has spoke it to them.
 - Adam is made in God's image, he has been given the earth to subdue, rule over and even name the animals in it.
 - Eve is to be his “helper and comparable to him” – Gen. 2:18
 - She is made from his rib that she would be beside him – not from his head, so that she would be over him and not from his foot, that she would be under him.....but from the rib – beside him.
 - Together they are to “compliment” each other not compete with each other.

- We are stronger, wiser, more anointed with our husbands/wives by our side.
- Together they are to multiply and rule over the earth (have lots of babies).
- Enter the serpent (Gen - 3:1), more cunning than any other beast of the field in God's creation, the devil deceives the woman.
 - Satan deceives her on her identity and convinces her that she could be a god if she eats from the forbidden tree.
 - In one fell swoop, eternity and paradise are lost, the earth is under new management (Satan) and along with it mankind gets to toil the land with pain, suffering and death. (Gen – 3:14-19)

Mathew 3:13-17 Restored Identity by the Father through Christ's baptism

- We see that Jesus is entering into His time of ministry at the age of 30.
 - Not much has happened in His life that we are aware of except the incident where He goes 'missing' to teach in the temple at the ripe age of 12 and "be about His Father's business."
 - Roughly 17 years pass before we pick up His story again.
 - Now before He enters His time of ministry He needs to receive a few things, namely the power of the Holy Spirit and His Father's affirmation/approval.

Vs.16

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

- Jesus is filled with the power of Holy Spirit at this moment for the first time in His life.

Vs. 17

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- Jesus is publicly affirmed by His Father – God the Creator of the heavens and earth!
 - Jesus hears from His Father 3 things that are core to the very truth of our creation:
 - 1) Jesus belongs to Him, as His Son.
 - 2) God tells Jesus that He is ‘beloved’ to Him.
 - 3) God tells Jesus that He is proud of Him.
 - And He announces it publicly to the crowd gathered at the Jordan.
 - God does it again in Matt 17:5 on the mount of Transfiguration – the very same words are heard by Peter, James & John.
 - Here God alludes to two Old Testament texts. (Ps. 2:7 & Is.42:1)
 - Psalm 2 was a song sung at the crowning of the King of Israel. The Father’s application of this text to Jesus identifies Him as a divinely appointed King whose rule and whose kingdom would extend to the ends of the earth.
 - The allusion to Isaiah 42 identified Jesus as a Servant, the Messianic figure who Is. 53:5 promised would be “wounded for our transgressions” and “bruised for our iniquities.” Matt. 12:18-21 explicitly applies Is. 42 to Jesus and Matt. 8-17 applies Is. 53 to Jesus. The Father’s words identify Jesus as both King and Savior!
 - Jesus fully receives His Kingdom Identity at that moment and is equipped to proceed with the task at hand – to ransom for ALL eternity the salvation of mankind and take back dominion of the earth from Satan.

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus conquers Satan in the wilderness at the end of 40 days of prayer and fasting.

Vs. 1

Then Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.

- The Spirit is leading Jesus to be tempted, this is His trial in the wilderness. This involvement of the Spirit in Jesus' life highlights Christ genuine humanity.
- He needs the Spirit in His flesh and is obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- We are to understand that this is a very intentional act by the Spirit and also that the face-off between Jesus and the devil was ordained by God.
- The filling and leading of the Spirit are key aspects of empowerment of the Christian life Church. (Eph. 5:18 & Gal. 5:18)
 - The 'wilderness' is where Israel failed its test of faith before God (Numbers 14). Jesus would succeed where Israel failed and pass the test.
 - Some correlation here, 40 days / 40 years in the wilderness
 - Christ was also being tested as the 'last Adam' (1Cor.15:45), the 'One' who would succeed where the 'first Adam' failed.
 - At the end of the genealogy of Christ (Luke 3:38), going back to the origin of mankind, Adam is referred also as the 'Son of God' because he was directly created by God and did not come from woman. (Genesis 2:7)

Vs. 2 - 3

And when He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

- At the peak of His hunger and the end of the fasting, the devil comes when Jesus is at his weakest moments.

- Jesus duty was not to exercise His divine powers but suffer and patiently endure hardship as a perfectly obedient human who waited for God's deliverance and empowerment!
- One of the great temptations by the enemy upon our identity is to satisfy our basest passions.

Vs. 4

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

- Jesus answers the devil's tempting by citing God's Word (Deuteronomy 8:3)
 - The citation deals with Israel's needs being met in the wilderness for 40 yrs. – physically by manna and spiritually by the presence and Word of God.
 - Satan twists and perverts the truth and God's Word. Jesus sets the record strait with the truth through God's Word.
 - To find our belovedness and our masculine heart in the Word of God is how we fight the devil in this world.

Vs. 5 - 7

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment in time. And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

- First of all, as the Messiah, Jesus will rule over all the kingdoms of the world at the end of age (Revelation 11:15) and He knows this.
- The devil tried to offer Jesus a shortcut to that world-wide authority, where by bypassing the pain and suffering of the cross at Calvary.
- Satan is called “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31), his claim that the world has been delivered to him and that he can ‘give it’ to anyone he wants is untrue.

- The devil is a usurper of God's realm and we're not shocked that he's lying here, for he is the father of lies. (John 8:44).
- This is what he does and it's his biggest tool/weapon against us. He only has few tricks but he has perfected how to use them against man.
- Finding our identity in our accomplishments and achievements is another great temptation of the enemy.
 - We can get lost/separated from God in these endeavors and they always return empty results for our joy and happiness.

Vs. 8

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

- Jesus again turns to the Word of God to combat the devil's lies and temptations.
- He is quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13 to make it clear that only God is worthy of worship.
 - A point that echoes the very first of Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:3)
 - In worship, in a love relationship of intimacy we re-discover God's love for us.

Vs. 9 - 11

Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He shall give charge over you, to keep you,' and, 'In their hands shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

- The devil, being crafty here, tries to throw Jesus off balance after two failed attempts by quoting scripture.
- Satan cites specifically (Psalms 91:11-12), claiming that the angels would rush to the rescue if Jesus jumped.

- The fall might well have been over 100 feet at the peak of the temple.
- I call this the “I’ve Got Talent” show of finding our identity in being something spectacular, doing something significant

Vs. 12 - 13

And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

- Jesus does not deny the truth of the Scripture the devil quoted, just the application he gave it.
- Again He verbally speaks out to the devil, He is audible with His reply. In clear contrast, He cites Deuteronomy 6:16, which recalls the tragedy of Israel’s complaining and testing God at Meribah and Massah. (Exodus 17:1-7)
- Only three tests are recorded in Mathew 4 & Luke 4 but the wording may imply there were more.
- Two out of the three temptations from devil are wrapped with the question that challenges Jesus’ Kingdom Identity – “If You are the Son of God...”
 - Satan clearly challenges Christ on the basest of truths to His very nature and core being.
 - Essentially he is saying: ‘Are You who I think You are?’
 - And more critical to the identity of His heart is: ‘Are You who You think You are?’
- Jesus knows who His Father is and where His authority and identity come from, He has successfully faced and resisted the devil, his lies and temptations because He has been affirmed and empowered by God the Father.
- God has spoken over Him the deep message of validation, identity and purpose by speaking the native tongue of Creation on His heart.

- “You are the Son of the One True Living God – the Creator of the heavens and earth!”
- “I love You completely, You are my Beloved Son!”
- “I am proud of You, You have what it takes!”
- Jesus does not attempt the wilderness without this knowledge and empowerment from His Father and Holy Spirit.
- The devil’s best trick is to confuse and remove your Kingdom Identity and to make you feel alone and isolated from not only Jesus and God but from the rest of the herd (your friends / family / loved ones).
 - If you buy into that agreement and lie from Satan, is it here that he can and will surely destroy you!!

John 17:20-26

Jesus prays to God, His Father on our behalf and invites us to share in His promise, power, identity and eternity.

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Jesus Christ has given YOU a standing invitation to receive your Kingdom Identity from God the Father and become adopted into His family, so you not only know Him as your Creator but as your Heavenly Father and Christ His Son as your Savior! Come to Him and know the core truths written on your heart by God at the creation of the world – You are His Beloved!

Benediction – 1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.