

Kingdom Life and Next Level Living **Matthew 13.1-9;18-23//6.33**

January 10, 2010

The word the Lord had me share over the past seven months has challenged me and my understanding of the kingdom of God. In my book, *Living at the Next Level*, I began to redefine victorious and prosperous living. It became clear to me that both James and Peter had experienced victory. James died a martyr and Peter walked out of the prison a free man!

Matt 4:23

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

I realize that Jesus emphasis was on a pursuit of the kingdom. Not money, health or blessings but the expansion of the kingdom. For that reason the formulas for prosperity don't work when the people using them are not "kingdom focused"!

Matt 13:19-20

19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

1. Hear the Word of the kingdom!

- Peter is imprisoned for his faith but he is on kingdom assignment – Acts 12
- Because he has allowed the word of the kingdom to fall on good ground His relationship with God keeps him until the time to be delivered!
- Understanding the word of the kingdom caused him to rest in God!

When he was younger he did not have the same level of faith and was awake and worried in the storm! Mark 4.39

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2. Understand the Word of the kingdom!

This is not a book of promises. Not a book about heaven and hell. It's a book about a hostile takeover!!

- When you understand the word you know who you are!

You go into every situation knowing that you are God's friend. A kingdom man or woman.

- When you understand the word you know who He is!

You understand that in the kingdom nothing is impossible for God! Mt.17.20

- When you understand the word you see life from a kingdom perspective!

Somehow in all of this your kingdom will be expanded!

3. Produce the Fruit/Result of the Word.

The word is not just the Bible but it is the message of the kingdom! It is what Jesus came to establish... His kingdom.

- God's miraculous deliverance of Peter was a "kingdom act"

Peter had a purpose to fulfill. Lives to touch. Churches to start and lead.

- Peter's deliverance was a 30, 60, 100 fold return!

It means that what God gave him was much more than he expected. It was much more than he deserved. Because God has a habit...

- The principle of the "Stacked Deck"!

He loves to move in the middle of impossible situations because the transportation system of the kingdom is faith. "We walk by faith and not by sight."