

There's More

Part 1- The Revolution

Mark 1:14-15

WE: Ever have moment that is quiet/still- Have feeling that there's got to be more? A nagging thought that you can't shake that life like this can't be all there is?

At some point we all have a sense there has to be more to all of this.

Starts to get uncomfortable if we keep digging. So we rarely do... but every once in a while we have the guts to keep going...

More questions come... Why do we do what we do? Why are we here? What's the point?
Just do what we can to get ahead, get all we can, make a name, find love, be happy, to die and be forgotten?

And... maybe there's more going on around us than we can see?

All deal w/ questions and answers differently... some healthy some not so...

One way- religion... xianity- make God happy by believing the right things and being nice and doing enough Good in the world, so we can go to heaven and finally get everything we want.

But there's got to be more than that?

Many people think of Jesus as a wise teacher. What was the point of his teachings, though? Did/does he just want us to , live safe lives, feel a spiritual high at a church service once a week, and go to heaven some day?

When we read about the first JF's and see the explosive nature of xianity in its first centuries, we see the passion, purpose, the transformation, the power, excitement that seems to be missing from a lot of our lives (especially experience w/ religion)...

So...What's the difference? What are we missing?

When we look at what Jesus actually said we find that there is MORE... We find that **Jesus offers more than we have yet to imagine.**

To see this we have to really understand what Jesus was/is all about...

Have to get some ideas/terms clear... get us all on same page...

Mark (between 50-70 AD), 1st biography, Peter's viewpoint. See that there is more to ALL of this that we can all be a part of.

Starts account telling us about J the B preparing way for Jesus... Jesus baptism... then how Jesus first started his world changing ministry...

GOD: V. 14-15 *Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"*

Seems pretty simple (this translation- 3 sentences)
Huge meaning for the original listeners and for us...

Mark puts it here as a summary of everything Jesus taught... this is the main message of Jesus.
Everything else that follows is an example and explanation...

Want to understand what Jesus was really about? Understand these sentences...

The time promised by God has come at last! Many of the Jewish people were looking forward to a time that God would make things right, bring his rule to earth... **Jeremiah 31:31-34** (around 600 BC)... would be brought by "Anointed One"

Jesus- "That time is now... EVERYTHING is going to be different now."

Jesus came to change EVERYTHING

The Kingdom of God is near! - If read before might have just brushed this off... but take a minute and try to explain what the Kingdom of God is... not easy is it? All think we know... all have differing answers.

Kingdom of God- Heaven? Godly society? Sounds kind of boring to me. Jews- National Kingdom
Central theme of Jesus' teaching... talks like it's something we should want. **What is the Kingdom of God, then?**

Not a place or state of mind.

Invisible but more real than anything we've ever seen or touched.

It's here now, but also not yet here...

Not even a thing (noun)... more of an action (verb)... Action of God...

Best word- **REVOLUTION**

What we are seeing is the story of two kingdoms...

Kingdom of Darkness/sin/death/self- All born into... natural state. How entire world operates.

- Self-Rule. Look out for self... all on our own.
- Might/Wealth makes right- get as much for yourself as you can
- Be first... remove whoever/whatever stands in your way to getting what you want...
- Ultimately leads to emptiness, purposelessness, life seeming futile...
- And even though we are part of the problem, we know this isn't how things are supposed to be... but it feels like we're stuck... almost imprisoned.
- But still there's something pulling at us... we want things to be different... we want to be different.

- Sometimes we see glimpses of the difference we are looking for... loving a child, selfless acts of giving/serving... but still something is missing.

Jesus- "That different starts now... God is now beginning his promised revolution against the kingdom of darkness... The Kingdom of God is near!"

- Turns everything on its head.
- Kingdom of God- based on love of God. First will be last.
- God will now rule in the hearts of his people... God will establish his sovereignty/authority/divine government... **new covenant.**

God is breaking into the kingdom of darkness and establishing his rule...

The Kingdom of God: God's revolution breaking into our world.

But there's something more... he's not just setting up a new kingdom...

He's rescuing those trapped in the kingdom of darkness and recruiting them to join the revolution...

Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!-

For a lot of us those words hit "wrong." Repent of your sins. Ugh...

Vision of street preachers or angry people with huge signs and megaphones ruining festivals and concerts.

First- not what Jesus was doing nor what he intended for others to do.

Repent- more than just feeling bad for bad things you've done...

What Jesus is inviting us to is a complete Revolution of how we see and interact with the world, people, and with God.

A complete transformation/reorientation/ a new beginning that leads in the opposite direction of our former kingdom to a new life under God's kingship.

Changing allegiance from self rule/reliance to allegiance to God's kingship.

Repentance: Changing allegiance from self-rule to God's kingship.

It's a change that goes beyond beliefs and changing certain behaviors and goes so deep it transforms hearts, motives, actions, ultimately entire being and life.

Point isn't... just to hole up and wait for heaven, have better life, get along, make world better place, get more people to be religious or simply think differently... but to bring a new kingdom/new order to the world...

God's kingdom of perfect justice/love/acceptance/peace.

Something we are all invited into...

“Repent and believe”- Invitation to make a CHOICE to join the revolution.

Choose to change allegiances

Choose to change the foundation of your trust... from self rule to God’s rule.

Jesus lays it out in Sermon on the Mt. (Matt. 5-7)

- Read blessed are’s

When you lose a job- you don’t have to freak out.. You trust God has it covered

When someone wrongs/insults you... don’t have to retaliate know God has it covered

When wondering why everything seems to be going wrong or too slowly... trust God is using it

Even when hitting all reds...

Once we choose to join the revolution... there’s even more... we are recruited/commissioned...

We are all invited to play a leading role in God’s revolution.

Luke Skywalker- world was tatoonine, just wanted to get some power converters from toshi station... was called to something more than he could’ve imagined... chose to accept it

Frodo/Sam- Just wanted to live peaceably in the shire... called to more than they could have ever imagined... chose to accept it

Super heroes- (Cpt America)- Simple people living routine lives- meant for more than they could imagine. Chose to accept it.

Difference? This is REAL. This is THE story that all great stories, at their core, point to... You have the choice to accept it or not.

YOU:

Revolution still growing, advancing.

Can’t always see it. Rarely looks like what we would expect (more on that in coming episodes).

Many have claimed to be a part of it and tried to hijack it for their own purposes.

But God is still moving and transforming...

We are invited to have a leading role... to have our story fuse w/ God’s grand story.

The first step to discovering our role is discovering what we’re invited to.

INVESTIGATE: (3 Options)

I’m listening- Read Jesus’ description of what this kingdom looks like in **Matt. 5-7**

I want to know more- Read Book of **Mark**

Let’s do this- Read Book of **Matthew**

CONSIDER: What would it look like for me to accept my part in this revolution?

WATCH: next episodes as we discover what this all means together.

WE: We choose to live in one kingdom or the other... Self-led or God-led. The kingdom of the world (that we've all tried) or the revolutionary Kingdom of God

The revolution of Jesus has changed the world and we are invited to join the story.

Rest of series explaining what this kingdom looks like and what our role in it is...

We are all invited to discover, enjoy, and share this revolution... together.

Questions

1. What's your reaction to this week's passage and message?
2. Having read one of the "Investigation" options (Matt 5-7, Mark, or Matthew), how would you explain the Kingdom of God? What questions/barriers/challenges remain for you?
3. How can your group pray for you as you discover your role in the Kingdom of God this week?