

The Gospel of the Kingdom Ambassadors of the Kingdom

Studio Session 107

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What qualifies us to be ambassadors of the kingdom? What allows us to be able to go out and declare to people the good news that their sins are forgiven? Well first off, when Jesus sent His disciples out, He said, "I will give to you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." When the kingdom was in full manifestation, when the kingdom came as it did on the day of Pentecost, came with the gift of the Holy Spirit into the world. When it came, Jesus anticipated its coming and declared to His disciples in Matthew the 16th chapter, "I will give to you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." Religion would have us believe that all we are are worthless slaves. There was a time where we were worse than that but everything changes when you become a citizen of the kingdom of God.

God has prepared in advance these realities and the truth of these realities for us to walk in. 'We were created,' the Scriptures say in the first chapter of Ephesians, "We were created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared in advance for us to walk in." Biblical predestination is not the question of whether or not God knew whether or not we'd be saved; that's not biblical predestination. When the bible speaks of predestination, it speaks of God creating, in advance of your birth, a destiny for you to walk in. That's described as good works created in advance for you to walk in.

You see, you are not an accident, you're not as it were 'a nobody'. God anticipated your coming into the world because He knew He would make you, as much as He's the Maker. He knew He would make you and He did not create you as De Carte, the French philosopher suggests, as 'blank slate'. It is not true that because you think therefore you are, that the proof of being is thinking. 'Cogito ergo sum', it's quite the opposite, 'sum ergo cogito'; I am, therefore I think. Because God knew you before you were in your mother's womb and wrote a destiny upon your spirit.

You came here for good works to live out a pattern of destiny that is characterized as good works which God prepared in advance, in advance of your being here, for you to walk in. When you understand this it changes everything. And one of the main things it changes is the idea that you have to sort of figure out a way to please God and keep Him happy otherwise He hates you, or otherwise He has no use for you, no purpose for you.

That's utter rubbish, that is so far from what is true that only a depraved mind could think that up, or a mind influenced by the evil one could think that up. God created you with a destiny in mind, complete with the living out of that destiny. So when you come here and God saves you, you become experientially acquainted with the goodness of God. And when you are someone whose life's testimony includes the understanding, experientially, of the goodness of God, then you are a witness of the things that you are sent to teach. It is because you are a witness of the truth and that God arranged it before you were born for this grace to appear to you; for you to be able to see and understand the goodness of God.

These are the definitive steps that qualify you to be an ambassador of the kingdom. Yes it is a very high sounding term, 'ambassador of the kingdom', and indeed the functioning of it is no lower than that. You are qualified and God has caused it to be such that you are able to declare the goodness of God. That's for the dual reasons stated; number one, that God arranged it to be so before you were born; number two, when you have actually had the experience of being translated from the powers of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of God and now you know the reality of living in the kingdom and we saw earlier that this happens when you're born again and you're born of the Spirit. When you're born of the Spirit you not only see the kingdom but you enter it. By the way, that's a reference to John the third chapter, Jesus conversation with Nicodemus.

When these things come to be true in your life you're a witness of the grace that you are sent to proclaim. Here is what Jesus said to His disciples, this is from Luke 24:48, first in 47 He says, "And that repentance and the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all the nations beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." Did you see that? "You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what My Father has promised but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

What qualifies them to represent Christ? They were witnesses of the truth of the things He proclaimed, they walked with Him for three years, they saw Him do what He did. They themselves would be filled with Holy Spirit. In anticipation of all of that He was commissioning them to go out and tell people, "Repent, change your loyalty from being under the kingdom of darkness and under its king; repent of that and seek refuge in the kingdom of our God as we have," is the obvious implication. "We have done so and we know the truth of that transformation, we're witnesses of it, we testify to the truth of it."

In that sense then you can be and you are an ambassador. Your sins were forgiven when you came into the kingdom do anything to deserve the forgiveness of these sins, it was given to you as a gift. Why a gift like this? Because man is trapped in sin and its sin that keeps you legally subject to the evil one. What do I mean by that? The wages of sin is death, it means when you sin you incur the consequence of being separated from God. Anything and anyone that is separated from God is subject to the control of the one who

himself resisted God and rebelled against God. When man sinned, who's advice did they listen to? When man separated himself from God in the garden, he didn't become a neutral creature.

This act of rejecting the counsel of God was entirely motivated by the lie spoken by the enemy to man. When Satan said, "If you eat of the tree it will make you wise," that was the basis of their choice. Neutrality is not one of our choices; you can't choose to be neutral. You can choose to obey God or you can choose to obey the devil. It's one or it's the other but you can't choose just to remain neutral. What would be the neutral ground? If you're not with God, where are you? Is there neutral ground between God and the devil? No. Jesus said it this way, "You're either for Me or you're against Me." The only one who benefits from the deception that says there is a neutral ground is the one in whose camp you already are and who simply doesn't want you to know that you're already in his camp, cause that way he can control you with impunity. Jesus said, "If you're not for Me you're against Me."

So when you testify to the grace of God that has appeared to you, namely that you are saved; you're walking in the kingdom, you're experiencing a life of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, when that's the reality to you, you don't need any particular schooling to be able to tell somebody else that. If you have the sentient capability of understanding what your life used to be like when you were lost and now you understand what your life is like now that you're saved, you are qualified, you are qualified. Why? You're qualified because you're a witness of the truth. The whole idea of having to go to school to become an evangelist is nonsense. That's just to give you a speech, a spiel that you can spit out on queue.

The kingdom is so easy, we have made it complicated because it's not the kingdom that we represent then, then we represent our religious points of view. If you are a witness to an accident, an automobile accident let's say; are you capable of going to court and testifying as to what you saw? Of course. What special schooling do you need, how long should you go to school, to learn how to testify? It's a simple matter of being able to say what you've seen, isn't it? Who actually draws the words out of you? Who tells you when you are to speak what you know and when not to, and who tells you what it is that you should say when you are to speak? Simple, the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit draws something out of you, it's not something with which you are unfamiliar. If you've been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of God, the Holy Spirit is perfectly able to put words to that in the presence of someone who is seeking access to the kingdom.

It's really not that complicated, you're an ambassador because A) God intended that you should have the keys to the kingdom which is to open and to unlock the kingdom to others; and B) you're a witness of these things as the truth. And if you needed any further

incentive to understand that, we've already shown you from the book of II Corinthians the 5th chapter how you have been duly appointed and constituted an ambassador of the kingdom of God. Here it is, verse 18 of chapter 5 of the book of II Corinthians, "All this is from God (that is, being a new creation) who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." How did you get this job of reconciling men to God? God gave you the ministry. But you've grown up in church where you can't have a ministry unless the pastor approves, you can't have a ministry unless the church approves. That's just institutional Christianity, they want to put a strangle hold on everything that God automatically and clearly and without effort does.

It doesn't matter what condition you're in. If you have known what it is to be translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of the Son of God, you're a qualified witness and God makes you an ambassador of the kingdom. "That God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting mens sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore (by this process we have been constituted and appointed) Christ's ambassadors, as though God Himself were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." So you're qualified if you're a witness because God has set it up to be so.

Now people get very nervous about the thought that I've put forth before, that God sends you with the intention of declaring the forgiveness of sins. Why would anybody be nervous at that? Did we not just read..here, listen to this statement from II Corinthians 5, where we just were moments ago, "That God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ," here it is, "not counting mens sins against them." In this day, we call today the day of salvation, do you know why? Because today, today people can be saved. Saved out of the control of the kingdom of darkness, translated into the kingdom of God. Today people can be saved. How is that possible? For one; Christ has died on the cross, this is the time following the cross; number 2, because your sins are payed for, God is not counting your sins against you.

Do you understand how radical this biblical concept is in today's church environment? You buttonhole the average church member today and ask for a description, ask them how they see themselves before God in respect to the matter of God's love for them. And their answer will be something like, "Well I know that I'm just a sinner saved by grace." That's been popularized by preachers from 100 years ago and preachers today thinking that that's a statement about humility, have kept on perpetuating this idea. But the truth is you USED to be a sinner. Well once you're saved, you're a son. You know, it's not all that hard to be saved. There's coming a day when it will be impossible to be saved. And there was a time when you couldn't be saved. But today is the day of salvation. Because today God is not counting mens sins against them. That's why you can go and say to someone, as the Spirit leads you to go to one He's already called, that's why you could say to them, "Your sins are forgiven." Why? Because God is not counting their sins

against them.

The fact is, we read these things in the bible but we don't believe them. In fact, for the majority of churchgoers, they've never even seen such things as these in the bible. The reason is, if the church were to show these things, they wouldn't know how to teach them to understand these things. I mean, here, this is your own bible, this is not a Sam Soleyn edition of anything. It says that, "God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ not counting mens sins against them." I challenge you to turn to your own bible and check and see if that's what it says. Now you know that was always there but tradition has you believe that people can be nothing more than sinners saved by grace. There is no biblical reference to that concept, that's an evangelical concept popularized about 100 years ago by the likes of a Billy Sunday or somebody of a later vintage. And that's been picked up by various ensundri preachers and religious groups thinking that that's a humble statement, that statement is not accurate. What it does is it forbids you from entering you're your ambassadorship. The church has to put you through all kinds of training models and you have to get the right grades and the right diplomas and the like, so you could go and be an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ.

These folks are standing in the way of the truth, the truth is God gave you the keys to the kingdom of heaven; the truth is that God is NOT counting mens sins against them today. So it's no big deal for Him to have you declare to someone that his sins are forgiven. Why? Because that's the condition of the world today, today is the day of the salvation. It's not a great deal, it's not a huge matter for you to go and under the leading of the Holy Spirit declare to someone his sins are forgiven. It's only when the knowledge of sin is used as a control device to get people to tow the line, that it's made into a big deal. If you saw it the way God sees it, then it wouldn't be a big deal.

Am I saying that sinning is not a big deal? No, you haven't heard me say that; sinning is a big enough deal to keep you separated from God, to send you to hell, it's that big a deal. But the fact that your sins are forgiven is what I'm trying to emphasize and that God would send you who have experienced the forgiveness of your own sins to tell somebody else that his sins are forgiven, that's the thing that's not the big deal. Why? Because this is the day when sins are to be forgiven. Why doesn't God just wave the wand and forgive everybody's sins? Because some don't want their sins forgiven. Who are THEY? Those who are bound by their traditions, those who love the life they're in. But everyone, until someone comes to them representing the kingdom, everyone is controlled by the error of the enemy. So God sends you to find those and actually He will lead you by His Spirit, to those whose sins you are meant to be the instrument of God by which the declaration that their sins are forgiven would take place.

This is your ambassadorship. Your ministry, in principle part, is this. You see every believer has this ministry, you may do many other things but this is a cornerstone of your

ministry, to be a witness to another of the things you know to be true. If that's so then why do you not simply go down the street, button hole everyone who comes into your line of sight, and say to them, "Your sins are forgiven; your sins are forgiven; your sins are forgiven; your sins are forgiven." Why wouldn't you do that? And the answer is: No ones sins are forgiven unless they apply to the kingdom for refuge. So you have to engage them long enough to know whether or not they're someone that God has sent you to declare this truth of the kingdom.

You see we're not just sent to forgive peoples sins, but we're empowered to cause their sins to be retained. Well why would you ever not forgive someone's sins or declare that someones sins are forgiven, since you can't? The answer is: You must discern who is actually seeking God and who is just playing with it, playing with the truth. The classic example in the scriptures are the two thieves on the cross. One of them is a thief, he's a con and he's running a con to the end. He says to Jesus, "If you're the Son of God come down off the cross, get me down and I'll believe anything You say." And the other one, also a thief, the one on the other side said to him, "Shut up! Leave Him alone. I know you, you and I are in this trade, we are thieves, we deserve what's happening to us but He did not, He has done no wrong." He turns to Jesus and he says to Him, "Lord remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus' reply was to say to him, "Today you will be with Me in paradise."

Now was that thief saved? Of course he was, wherever Jesus was going, and they were both dying, he was going with Him. What about the other thief? Both of them talked to Jesus in the closing moments of His life and theirs as well. What about the other thief? He died in his sins of course. He was so close to the salvation of the Lord but did not avail himself of it. The Lord did not forgive his sins. Did the Lord know he was going to die? Of course He did. Did He not try to persuade him to accept salvation? No, He did not. Why not? Because the man was not looking for salvation, he was just looking for a way to get off the cross.

Don't waste your time; hear me on this matter; don not waste your time with people who are happy where they are. God didn't send you to persuade people to change so that they would accept the salvation of the Lord, He sent you to witness the truth to them, that He means to draw them Himself. How can you tell whom He has drawn and whom He has not called? The answer is: Discernment. You're empowered to discern and by discernment you can tell whose sins are to be forgiven and whose sins are to be retained. Don't waste your time with people who have not been called. What if you're wrong? No matter, God will send someone else; He'll cover you in the matter. If you make a mistake no harm will come to you or to them. But you are an ambassador, this is the day of salvation. You have been given the keys of the kingdom, you are sent to represent Christ. Live the truth of the gospel of the kingdom.

I'm Sam Soleyn, God bless you, see you next time. Bye, bye.