

TEACHING NOTES: The Drama of Revelation and Redemption

A Kingdom People

Over the past couple weeks, we have been working through the “Drama” of redemptive history. As we have seen, this drama is the work of God in which he is making for himself a people who will be a new community on earth and pick up the original mandate to “image forth” the glory of God through this lives. That is the nature of our task at this point in our series. What exactly does God expect of us as his people? How are we to live as this “New Community?” Are we simply a people who are looking for a future reality or is there something for us here today? What would it look like if we were stripped down to nothing but our new identities in Christ. We need to be “Kingdom People.”

A Present and Future Reality~

We can easily get caught up in the future benefits of the Kingdom and forget how to live in the here and now. To be Kingdom People, we must have one foot in the “now” and one foot in the “then.” We must not get enamored with the future and so forget the present. The angel in Acts 1 reminds us of this when he said to the disciples, “why do you stand looking into heaven?” Jesus had just told them that they will be his witnesses to all peoples, yet they were easily distracted from that mission. That his true of us today. We need to construct a fresh understanding of what it means to be “witnesses” as it relates to being Kingdom People.

Definition of a Witness: an individual who, being present, personally sees or perceives a thing; a beholder, spectator, or eyewitness.

A reminder: At creation, God created us to share with us his love and relationship as well as to image forth his glory. To be a witness is to bear the marks of this glorious relationship with God through Christ.

Hope (Motivation) of a Witness: 1 Thess. 2:17-20

The heartbeat of a “witness” is not just heaven but to see people continually grafted into the body of Christ through their faithfulness with Gospel. To many Christians approach life as “doing the best we can and hoping that we can blow out of this joint before God gets really mad.” That is not the vision of the Scriptures. “Go therefore and make disciples” is the paradigm and motivation of the people of God.

Mission of a Witness: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

A Holy People—vs. 1-8

At the point of Israel leaving Egypt under Moses’ leadership, we see a loose nit group of people who have one commonality, they are the descendents of Abraham. God had told Abraham that through his seed (Isaac), he would give them a land and bless all nations. From the outset of this journey out of Egypt, God sets forth his agenda for this people. They are to be a Kingdom of Priests and a holy nation. (Exodus 19:6). This is the primary reason God redeems. He is creating for himself a Holy People who will be his ambassadors before all the nations of the earth. This was not realized in the “nation” of Israel, but the “spiritual nation” of the church. Paul gives this picture of holiness and what it means in his letter to the Thessalonians.

An Incarnational People— vs. 9-12

In addition to their roles as a “holy” people, they are to be a Kingdom of Priests. 1 Peter brings home this identity in the NT when he says “*you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light.*” We are to embody (incarnate) the glory of God through out life and reflect his marvelous love for the world. To neglect to do so voids our identity as Kingdom People. Christ embodied humanity so as to identify with us. That is the mission of an Incarnational People.

A Cultivating People

Meaning of Work: Proverbs 6:6-11

Meaning of Creativity/Arts: 1 Timothy 4:4-5