

JESUS' STRATEGY FOR KINGDOM EXPANSION: WHAT WAS IT?

By George Miley

Scripture reading: Mark 6:1-13

JESUS' OVERALL STRATEGY

1 - Proclaim the Gospel of the kingdom

The Gospel of the Kingdom is more than a gospel of how to get our sins forgiven. Thankfully that is certainly included. But the Gospel of the Kingdom is much more. It is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus and the apostles proclaimed and taught.

2 - Manifest the Presence of the kingdom

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom was not just something conceptual. He demonstrated its presence and power through healings, casting out demons, miracles, etc.

3 - Teach the principles of the kingdom

This helps us to connect with Jesus as Teacher. Jesus came to make a way for us to enter the Kingdom of God. But once we are in, we must learn how to live there. How does the kingdom work? What are its realities? This is what Jesus taught.

4 - Develop the leaders for the kingdom movement

Jesus came to catalyze a movement. The kingdom of God is a movement. A movement needs leaders. Jesus intentionally developed leaders. For him, the essence of leadership development was character development.

5 - Break the power of the counter-kingdom

To understand God's Kingdom we must understand that there is a counter-kingdom of darkness. Jesus came to break the power of that kingdom. He did this on the cross. The most significant act of kingship Jesus performed on earth was to go to the cross.

6 - Certify the success of the strategy

Jesus did this by his resurrection.

JESUS DEVELOPED LEADERS/MINISTERS FOR THE MOVEMENT. HOW?

Let's modify our terminology from "leaders" to "ministers". Are we all called to be leaders? Every one of us is called by God into ministry. All who know Christ are ministers.

We are all called by God into ministry. And we are gifted by God for the ministry into which he has called us.

Four principles in how Jesus developed ministers for the Kingdom movement:

1 - Impartation

Ministers are trained life-on-life. Mark 3:14. Jesus chose twelve 1) that they might be with him and 2) that he might send them out to preach.

The classroom has its place. But we Protestants are in danger of trying to turn the church into a classroom. Jesus called disciples to be with him.

Do you know what your calling is? What your gifting is? Would you like to know? How do you find out? Mentors. Spiritual fathers and mothers.

2 - Submission to one another

Jesus sent them out two by two. They needed to learn how to get along with others. Character is developed in community.

Until a person has demonstrated that they are able to live under spiritual authority they are not ready to carry spiritual authority. The most important thing about Christian ministers is not how much they can achieve, but whether they can live in submission to one another.

3 - Spiritual authority over unclean spirits

Do we believe in an unseen world. How do we deal with the existence of the kingdom of darkness? The kingdom of darkness is against planting new churches. Anyone who wants to start new works of God will be confronted with the kingdom of darkness

On May 3, 1942, Hanna's Jewish parents were gassed to death in Chelmno, Poland. On May 3, 2015, she was asked to read from her book in a public meeting in Bonn, Germany, the city of her birth.

When she finished a German man walked to the microphone. He was a businessman. "Hanna," he said, "my grandfather was a Nazi, an SS Officer. He killed Jews. He was a Nazi until the day of his death. He was on duty in Chelmno at the same time that your parents were there. I don't know what to do about that. I can only stand here, speak the truth in public, and ask you if you would forgive us."

Hanna stood, approached the man, and said, "I forgive you." They embraced.

The grandson of an SS Officer asked forgiveness of a German Jewish Holocaust survivor. And she forgave him. And something broke in the atmosphere. They both knew Jesus. The confession, and the forgiveness, were both products of what Jesus does inside people. Jesus heals. He breaks the power of cancelled sin.

4 - Utter reliance on God

Christian ministry is always fragile. The church is fragile. It always has been. It always will be. What is the answer? Utter reliance on God.

