

## The Story of Jesus

### Part 19: How to Live Without Fear

Mark 8:1-21 - [watch online](#)

**SUMMARY:** Some of our deepest fears come from the worry of losing the things we hold most dear. But Jesus offers us a way to experience the best of life without the fear that is usually lurking in the background.

#### MAIN IDEAS:

[01:01] What we treasure most often becomes the source of our greatest fears.

[02:20] Jesus invites us to experience the best of life without the fear that is usually lurking in the background

[02:59] To find the real Kingdom of God we have to discover who the King really is.

[06:34] The Kingdom of God is for everyone.

[09:23] What we think God's kingdom should be can blind us to who Jesus really is.

[12:02] If we are constantly worried about our own kingdoms we will never enjoy the Kingdom of God.

[13:56] When we discover the real Jesus we discover the real God.

[15:57] The Kingdom of God is the kingdom of love, peace, and joy.

[19:25] If Jesus is who he said he is then we can trust that his kingdom is what he said it is.

[20:06] In discovering the Kingdom of God, we find everything we've been searching for.

**INVITATION:** How to discover the real Jesus and his kingdom

[18:11] Read: Mark 1-8:21

[18:50] Answer for yourself:

- Who is this man?
- What does the Kingdom of God look like?

[19:08] Evaluate: Whose kingdom?

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you define the Kingdom of God in your own words?
2. Jon said, "To find the real Kingdom of God we have to discover who the King really is." How do you think our understanding of Jesus shapes our understanding of his kingdom?
3. Read Luke 12:29-32. In your opinion, how do our fears and anxieties keep us from enjoying and living in the true Kingdom of God?
4. How can we, in our daily life, distinguish between fighting for our own kingdoms and living in and for the Kingdom of God?
5. How can your group pray with you this week?

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#### TRANSCRIPT:

**IN:** Fear. It's such a visceral feeling. It can paralyze us and suck all the joy out of what we hold most dear. But it doesn't have to. We can fully enjoy the life we have and eliminate the fear that tries to grab us. But it requires some discoveries and new perspectives. We find it all in the Story of Jesus. So, let's talk about it... together.

**WE:** What is most important to you? Most passionate about?

Family/Friends/Relationships

God/Faith

Job/Career/Future

Happiness

Country

Now, what are your greatest fears, what do you worry most about?

- Probably a very similar list isn't it?

**What we treasure most often becomes the source of our greatest fears.**

True whether religious or not...

Relationships/Family... Fear of losing them, drama

Job/Career/Future... afraid you won't be enough, you'll lose your edge, economy goes down

God/Faith... can actually end up being afraid of God... feeling like you have to keep him happy/be holy enough so that you don't lose his blessing/care/or worse.

Happiness is so fickle if we base our life on that... it's just like drinking salt water just makes things worse and worse

Country... end up afraid of anything/anyone that threatens your picture of the ideal country.

So what do we do.... Go all Jedi and shun all attachments?

Not quite. And this is why the story of Jesus is such good news... whoever you... whatever brought you here...

**Jesus invites us to experience the best of life without the fear that is usually lurking in the background...**

He said we can find it in the KoG.

- God reigning in the hearts and lives of his people.
- Making us whole and giving us true life through his love.

But, we often miss it b/c it doesn't look/feel like we expect

- Its values are often different than what we've been told we are supposed to value
- Its priorities often conflict with our own priorities.

So how do we find the real KoG and enjoy living in it daily?

**To find the real KoG we have to discover who the King really is.**

Something Apostle Peter had found/experienced it...

- Was commissioned to create a community of all races/genders/classes based on the KoG
- As got older had friend Mark write down his experience with Jesus
- In today's story we see people, including Peter, grappling with who Jesus really is and what it really means to live in his kingdom...

**GOD:** At this point in the story... Jesus has been teaching/healing/doing a whole bunch of miracles

- Fed over 5000 by multiplying a few loaves of bread and some fish.

Has challenged the religious establishment and their traditions and rituals.

Has shown the KoG is for everyone even non-Jews

And now, as he's teaching in a mostly gentile area, a familiar problem arises

**8:1-3** 3 days? Jesus must have been amazing to listen to.

But here we go again... big crowd no food.

Now if been following along... what do you think the disciples SHOULD have said?

- "No problem Jesus... you've given us the power to do the things you do... we learned our lesson from the last time this happened... who's got some bread and maybe some fish? You keep teaching Jesus we've got this"
- Or at least... "Here's some bread. Why don't you multiply it and feed these people again?"

Probably why Jesus is the one to bring up the idea of the hungry people this time.

- Possibly a chance to put into practice what they should have learned by now

But sometimes people are slow learners... **V. 4**

"Duhhhh... I don't know, Jesus. We've sure got a problem on our hands don't we?"

So with what I assume is a sigh/head shake/eye roll... he asks "How much bread do you have?"

- 7 loaves and a few small fish.

Prays and starts having disciples pass out the food (over exaggerates breaking it?)... everyone eats as much as they can and there are 7 baskets left over.

- Did same miracle for gentile crowd that he did for Jewish crowd.

Demonstrating once again... The KoG is for everyone.

Then they get in a boat and go back to the Jewish side of the lake. And it's a fun time for all...

**V. 11-12** These guys were probably a blast at parties.

These self-proclaimed guardians of Judaism are trying to put Jesus in his place.

- Demanding to see his "credentials"
- "You say you're bringing the KoG... prove it... do a trick."

They weren't honestly curious... they had already made up their minds.

If they wanted proof they could have asked the 1000's of people whom he had fed, or all the people who had seen him heal.

Some of their own had seen Jesus heal a paralyzed man lowered through a roof on a matt... had seen him heal a man in a synagogue with a shriveled hand.

Problem wasn't that Jesus didn't do enough miracles...

- Problem was that the kingdom he was bringing didn't look like what they expected nor wanted
- It didn't look how they thought it SHOULD look

These guys should have been the first to recognize who Jesus was...

But what was most dear to them was the prestige/position/privilege they got by "keeping their religion pure"... based upon their strict adherence to their customs and regulations.

They wanted a Messiah/King that agreed with them...

- A kingdom where they would be privileged/honored b/c of their strict religious rule following
- Where they would be in and all those "sinners" whom they looked down on would be out once and for all

But Jesus says...

- God cares about your heart not the religious laws and regulations you follow
- In the KoG the least is the greatest and the greatest is the least.
- It's a kingdom that is inclusive of everyone, even those "sinners" and gentiles you look down on.

Jesus is threatening their status quo and what they thought the KoG should be...

So they refuse to see who Jesus is... **What we think God's kingdom should be can blind us to who Jesus really is.**

Jesus sees their stubbornness and refuses to jump through their hoops.

- "I will not give a sign to this generation"

He sees that the general population's way of thinking about God's kingdom, represented by the Pharisees, is too entrenched and they won't listen to what he has been saying...

They want to fight for what they think the kingdom should be instead of seeing what the kingdom really is.

So they missed it.

Jesus sees that they won't ever change their minds so there is no point in showing them any signs... they wouldn't believe it even if they saw it... said he did it by Satan's power.

So he gives them what they want... He leaves the area... They have missed their opportunity.

**V. 13-15** Was Jesus talking about bread? Nope.

They were all probably recounting/processing everything that had been happening.

- The confrontation with the Pharisees and possibly Herod executing John the B.

And Jesus concludes the discussion by saying look out for the thing that has made them miss the truth about me...

The Pharisees wanted God's kingdom to be about following their religion to the letter and cutting out anything and anyone who didn't fit the right religious picture.

- Their fear of losing their religion and position and privilege made them put heavy religious regulations on the people and reject people God loved.

Herod wanted God's kingdom to be a political kingdom. A kingdom where he and his family ruled and no one... not even some dirty prophet, could question their authority and power.

- Fear of losing his political power made him kill John the B

They didn't actually care about the KoG.

They were focused on maintaining their own kingdoms... which only leads to the fear of losing what we hold most dear.

**If we are constantly worried about our own kingdoms we will never enjoy the KoG.**

Jesus is telling his guys... "Don't miss what's happening here, don't miss who I really am and what I'm doing because you refuse to let go of what you think the KoG SHOULD be. Let go of worrying about your own kingdom."

"If you get caught up in trying to make the KoG look the way you want it... you'll only create more fear and lose sight of what really matters."

And since the disciples had been with Jesus everyday, had personally seen his miracles, had had Jesus personally explain his parables to them... totally get it and understand... right?

**V. 16-21** The disciples completely miss what Jesus is saying...

Jesus- "I'm not talking about bread. If we needed bread... what do you think I could do?"

"I'm talking about something even more important... something that those miracles point to."

"Come on, look at the evidence... you saw me feed the people... TWICE. Don't you yet understand what is going on around you... don't you understand yet who I am and what I am doing?"

What they still couldn't understand was **When we discover the real Jesus we discover the real God.**

That's what the miracles pointed to. That's why he could teach with such authority and love with such compassion.

Jesus was bringing the KoG, his kingdom, to earth.

The disciples enjoyed being with Jesus. They had enjoyed and grown from his teaching. They had seen and experienced amazing things. They had even done amazing things through his power...

But they still didn't understand his warning b/c they didn't understand who he was... and the true KoG he was bringing.

**WE:** And this is where we enter the story.

Whether we've been with Jesus for a long time or are still exploring what that all looks like...

Just like the Pharisees and Herod... we may think we are striving/fighting for good things...

Family/Career/Country... but deep down we are really fighting for our own kingdom..

And as we sense our imagined control is starting to slip or that it's being threatened, fear begins to wrap its icy fingers around our hearts.

Our expectations of what the KoG should be and our fears of maintaining our own kingdoms can make us miss who Jesus truly is...

And when that happens he becomes just another add on to help us get what we want.

- And we completely miss the fullness of the living in the KoG.

But when we discover who Jesus really is, what his heart is really like... we discover the KoG...

And his kingdom is so much better...

It's not a kingdom of religious regulations, political power, personal gain.

It's not a kingdom of fear, worry, stress, anger

The KoG is the kingdom of love, peace, and joy.

To find it we have to let go of our kingdoms... have to let our visions of what the KoG should be die.

- And allow them to be replaced by the King's vision of his kingdom.

And when we do... all those other things that we hold dear find their true meaning and lose their fear...

Jesus- "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you."

Find the KoG and we find everything else

- We are free to embrace real relationships without fear...
- We can enjoy our career/school and stop worrying about our future...
- We don't have to worry about success b/c it doesn't depend on us... success is completely redefined
- Can stop worrying/fighting about whether our side is winning or losing...
  - B/c we have a peace and joy that real life can't steal.
  - We know that we are living in and for the most important kingdom in cosmos

- We don't need to rely on religious regulations out of fear of God... We can follow Jesus and enjoy being fully known, fully loved and liked by our Heavenly Father.

Life in the KoG is not always easy. Will still be hard times.

- But there is solid hope that Jesus is in it with us and will lead us, comfort us, and use it for good.

**YOU:** How to discover the real Jesus and his kingdom

First in the next month or two **read** what we have gone over so far in the Story of Jesus **Mark 1-8:21**

- Mark can be broken up into 3 Acts. What we have just finished is Act 1.
- Going to take a break and do a Xmas series. As we break read through what we have done...
- Refer back to episodes if want help.

Mark was writing for a specific purpose... to show us who Jesus is and what his kingdom is like

So as you read try to **answer for yourself**

- **Who is this Man?**
- **What does the Kog look like?**

Then as go through days (Especially as we go into the holidays and family dynamics)

**Evaluate: Whose kingdom?**

- Am I worried/stressed/angry b/c this is about my kingdom or the KoG?
- Does this decision/attitude/words come from my kingdom or the KoG

**WE:** **If Jesus is who he said he is then we can trust that his kingdom is what he said it is.**

The path to discovering our true humanity.

The best way for humans to live and flourish.

The way to discover, enjoy, and share the full abundant life he offers... the life we've been looking for all along.

If Jesus is who he said he is, we can let go of what we want our kingdoms to be...

- Let go of what we think the KoG should be and simply enjoy the King and his kingdom.

We are all invited to discover the identity of the King and enjoy his kingdom now and forever.

**In discovering the KoG, we find everything we've been searching for.**