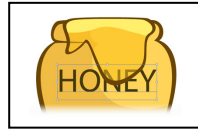


# “STICKY CHURCH”



Week 1 - Discussion Guide  
Sunday – April 19, 2009

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Sermon: “*Speaking of the Kingdom*”  
Scripture – Acts 1:1-5

1. Icebreaker – What “kingdoms” have you visited?

Bahrain	King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa	Constitutional
Belgium	King Albert II	Constitutional
Brunei	Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah	Constitutional
Cambodia	King Norodom Sihamoni	Constitutional
Denmark	Queen Margrethe II	Constitutional
Japan	Emperor Akihito	Constitutional
Jordan	King Abdullah II	Constitutional
Kuwait	Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salim Al Sabah	Constitutional
Lesotho	King Letsie III	Constitutional
Liechtenstein	Prince Hans Adam II	Constitutional
Luxembourg	Grand Duke Henri	Constitutional
Malaysia	King Syed Sirajuddin	Constitutional
Monaco	Prince Albert II	Constitutional
Morocco	King Muhammad VI	Constitutional
Netherlands	Queen Beatrix	Constitutional
Norway	King Harald V	Constitutional
Oman	Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id	Absolute
Qatar	Emir Sheik Hamad ibn Khalifa al-Thani	Constitutional

Samoa	Malietoa Tanumafili II	Constitutional
Saudi Arabia	King Abdullah	Absolute
Spain	King Juan Carlos I	Parliamentary
Swaziland	King Mswati III	Absolute
Sweden	King Carl XVI Gustaf	Constitutional
Thailand	King Bhumibol Adulyadej	Constitutional
Tonga	King George Tupou V	Constitutional
United Kingdom	Queen Elizabeth II <sup>1</sup>	Constitutional <sup>2</sup>
Magic Kingdom	Mickey Mouse	Fantasy

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2. Light and Candle & Pray the Lord's Prayer – and then ask: "When you pray 'Thy Kingdom come' what are you praying for?"

- Use this as the opening to a discussion about the meaning of the Kingdom of God.
- In the sermon Doug talked about the logic of the "territorial" definition of Kingdom, and named these interpretations –
  - o The Whole World
  - o The Church
  - o A Specific Nation: Israel or the United States
  - o A Future Coming Realm
  - o Heaven when we die
  - o The Human Heart
- Do any of these correspond to what you are praying for in the Lord's Prayer?

3. Now, review Acts 1:1-5 and Luke 4:42-44 together -

- Were you aware of just how important the Kingdom of God was in the teaching and preaching of Jesus?
- In your spiritual formation, how important has the Kingdom of God been?
- What do you think of Brian McLaren's suggestion that the Kingdom of God is "the secret message of Jesus"?

4. "The Kingdom is Christ"

- In the Biblical languages "Kingdom" refers as much to the act of reigning as to the territory ruled.

- Biblically the “Kingdom of God” refers to how God is present and active in our midst – not to condemn but to save; and to the One in whom God is really present and active in the world - Jesus Christ.
- Therefore, when we confess Jesus as Lord we are swearing allegiance to the Kingdom of God.
  - How well did you understand this when you first became a Christian?
  - What is the importance of this now to you being a Christian?
  - How does having Jesus as your Lord interfere with the way you live?

5. What’s the difference between Jesus being your Savior and Jesus being your Lord?

Read and Discuss ---

**- A TWO STAGE GOSPEL – Tom Skinner**

You see, there is a two-stage gospel preached in America .

Stage one: You accept Jesus as your personal Savior. You collect fire insurance; you get a passport to heaven, along with the guarantee that if you die you won't go to hell.

Second stage: Sometime after that—a week, a year, or 20 years later—you go to a "Deeper Life Conference" and really get into Jesus.

Now the problem is that you don't see that pattern in scripture. The apostles preached, "If you will confess with your mouth and believe in your heart the Lord Jesus" (not Jesus as personal Savior, but the *Lord* Jesus) "that God hath raised him from the dead, you will be saved." In other words, they made it very clear at the outset that salvation means abandoning yourself to the Lord of a new kingdom. One who demands total abandonment of all that you are and all that you have to him. That was the evangel.

**- CHRIST IS NOT DIVIDED – A.W. Tozer**

Much of our full gospel literature and much of our preaching tend to perpetuate a misunderstanding of what the Bible says about obedience and Christian discipleship. I think the following is a fair statement of what I was taught in my early Christian experience and before I began to pray and study and anguish over the whole matter: "We are saved by accepting Christ as our Savior." "We are sanctified by accepting Christ as our Lord." "We may do the first without doing the second." What a tragedy that in our day we often hear the gospel appeal made in this way: "Come to Jesus! You do not have to obey anyone. You do not have to give up anything. Just come to Him and believe in Him as Savior!" The fact that we hear this everywhere does not make it right! To urge men and women to believe in a divided Christ is bad teaching-for no one can receive a half or a third or a quarter of the divine Person of Christ!

