

KINGDOM HANGUP 1: Seeing Kingdom living as fantastical and entirely removed from everyday experience

1. DISCUSS THIS

Why do we tend to see Jesus as a “of idealized stained glass looking bearded fellow, completely disconnected from the way that human beings actually live, the way that they feel, or the way that they relate to others?”

How do we know that He was not like that?

2. DISCUSS THIS

What are some incorrect ideas that are popular regarding how Jesus went about His professional work?

- How did Jesus and His followers finance their operation?
- How did Jesus have such an excellent command of Scripture?
- Do you think Jesus had to think things through and make decision for Himself, or do you think God always made everything that He needed to do crystal clear to Him?
- “Jesus was the smartest person who ever lived.” Dallas Willard
- What were some of the complex, subtle situations that Jesus had to navigate? How did He go about this?

3. DISCUSS THIS

“Kingdom living is all about a person learning to be able to do work their way through things, make decisions, take risks, and navigate the thorny and complex issues of life”

KINGDOM HANGUP 2: Where are the miracles today?

4. DISCUSS THIS

If we had more faith, would there be more miracles today?

5. DISCUSS THIS

Did Jesus care about human need, suffering, and sickness?

Was the primary purposes of Jesus miracles to address human need, suffering, and sickness?

What was the purposes of healing people who, in the big picture, quickly got sick again and died afterwards?

6. DISCUSS THIS

What was the primary purpose of Jesus's miracles?

Jesus performed many other [miracles] in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written [so] that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John (20:30-31).

7. DISCUSS THIS

Why do we never see Jesus snap His fingers and cure someone of greed, anger, or lust in the gospels?

How did the miracles help Jesus heal people on the inside?

"Look, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing happen to you." John 5:15.

8. DISCUSS THIS

Why were the miracles only somewhat effective in achieving their purpose?

Why aren't people necessarily convinced by something as dramatic and impressive as a miracle?

9. DISCUSS THIS

How did Jesus try and teach people what the miracles were really for?

“Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. John 6:26-27.

10. DISCUSS THIS

Why did Jesus sometimes refuse to do miracles when asked?

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. He replied, “When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away. Matthew 16:1-4.

“No matter how strong the evidence, there will always be room for doubt.”

“People already have enough evidence. That is never the issue.”

11. DISCUSS THIS

How could people deny that a miracle had occurred, when obviously they had just witnessed it?

“Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.” Matthew 11:21-22.

12. DISCUSS THIS

What is **the unforgiveable sin**?

Hard hearted. Hearts of stone. Eyes that can't see. Stopped up ears.

13. DISCUSS THIS

How did Jesus decide when performing a miracle would be helpful vs harmful?

And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith. Matthew 13:58

14. DISCUSS THIS

What was the role of the apostle's miracles?

1. _____

2. _____

The things that mark an apostle—signs, wonders and miracles—were done among you with great perseverance” (2 Corinthians 12:12).

15. DISCUSS THIS

Do the epistles emphasize miracle working?

If not, what is their main emphasis?

16. DISCUSS THIS

What is the difference between the *the fruit of the Spirit*, and not the *the fruits of the Spirit*?

How do *the fruit of the Spirit* relate to the following passage:

Test yourself, and see if you are in the faith, says Paul. *2 Corinthians 13:5*.

What should you do if you are not manifesting *the fruit of the Spirit*?

17. DISCUSS THIS

Should we pray for physical healing today?

Why do we pray “not my will, but Yours be done?”

At the pool of Bethesda, Jesus healed only one in a huge multitude (*John 5*). Why not the others?

18. DISCUSS THIS

The miraculous is part of the God’s work in the world, but what is “the main thing” that the Bible emphasizes?

(END OF AUDIO SEGMENT ONE)

(START OF AUDIO SEGMENT TWO)

KINGDOM LIVING: POWER AND AUTHORITY

19. DISCUSS THIS

Who has all the power and authority in God's Kingdom?

All authority in heaven and on Earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:18.

20. DISCUSS THIS

What did Christ do with His power and authority?

*When Jesus had called the Twelve together, **he gave them power and authority** to drive out all demons and to cure diseases and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:2.*

Matthew 18. Whatever you shall bind on Earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on the Earth shall have been loosed in heaven Matthew 18:18.

21. DISCUSS THIS

Does Jesus give us that same power and authority?

We are a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).

What does the name **Israel** mean?

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”
Romans 8:15

What is the significance of adoption to sonship in that passage?

Why do we pray *in Jesus’s name*?

KINGDOM LIVING: RISK, MISTAKES, FAITH

21. DISCUSS THIS

How does our being entrusted and authorized by God to make decisions on His behalf require us to use our own judgment and discretion in Kingdom living?

God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:3-4

22. DISCUSS THIS

How is doubt related to faith? To risk?

“He who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind” says James (1:6).

23. DISCUSS THIS

“If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly,” said G.K. Chesterton

How does this relate to Peter walking on the water?

Do you think Peter’s doubt at that time was a sin?

Why is it necessary that we make mistakes and fail?

24. DISCUSS THIS

In the *Parable of the Talents* why does the one servant hide his money away, instead of try and use it to make more money?

25. DISCUSS THIS

You are the light of the World. You are the salt of the Earth. (Matthew 5).

“We are so obsessed with sins of commission, but Jesus seemed to spend even more time talking about sins of omission.”

“Kingdom living is about so much more than not sinning.”

What two groups of people need our help?

1. _____
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. Matthew 25.
2. _____

The eye can't say to the hand I don't need you.

26. DISCUSS THIS

Without faith it is impossible to please God Hebrews (11:6)

Why is that?

What happens when we step out in faith?

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the Earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. 2 Chronicles 16:9

I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. (Colossians 1:28).

God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20).

27. DISCUSS THIS

Does past sin disqualify us from Kingdom work? Unrepentant sin?

KINGDOM LIVING: GOD IS IN THE ORDINARY

28. DISCUSS THIS

“Kingdom living does not look like searching for God where you are not. Kingdom living is finding God where you are.”

How do we know this is true?

Psalm 139:

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.*

How does Psalm 139 naturally help make sense of the following verse:

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17.

29. DISCUSS THIS

Why is a lot of time spent in the mundane, the ordinary, the arduous and not so glamorous?

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24.

Do you think God would be more happy if we all went into “full time ministry?”

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.

30. DISCUSS THIS

How is faithful Kingdom service in the mundane parts of our lives is a key aspect of our spiritual formation?

Why must we persistent in ordinary faithfulness very patiently, for very long periods of time, in order to undergo the proper transformation?

How is it “training for reigning”, as Dallas Willard puts it?

“‘Well done, my good servant!’ ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ Luke 19:17.