

## **The Now of the Kingdom**

### **Bringing the Already of the Kingdom into Our Everyday Lives**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Every day starts out as a blank sheet of paper. Most of our days are very predictable. We get up, we have breakfast, we take our kids to school, go to our meetings, have lunch, pay bills, get home have dinner, watch some TV, surf the internet and then we get up to do it all over again. Some days we feel like we barely survive. Other days we feel like we thrive. In almost anyone's book thriving is better than surviving.

Jesus came that we may have life and have it to the full! (John 10:10) You see, Jesus does not want us to have a "ho-hum" life. He wants to use you to change the world and as he uses you to bring the Now of the Kingdom to others around you, you will experience life to the full. So what can life look like if we stay in step with what the Father is doing? We will tap into the full life Jesus promised us!

**[Watch the short video] - if showing the video during the small group meeting**

#### **Group question:**

- 1) What was the most encouraging portion of this story for you?
- 2) Does anyone have a similar experience they would like to share?

#### **ENCOUNTERING THE WORD**

Let's look at couple examples of what having a full life looks like or making the mundane the miraculous.

**Read:** Acts 16:13-14 (The Message)

*<sup>13-14</sup> On the Sabbath, we left the city and went down along the river where we had heard there was to be a prayer meeting. We took our place with the women who had gathered there and talked with them. One woman, Lydia, was from Thyatira and a dealer in expensive textiles, known to be a God-fearing woman. As she listened with intensity to what was being said, the Master gave her a trusting heart—and she believed!*

1. As Paul and his crew were headed to this prayer meeting do you think they planned on leading someone to the Lord? If anyone has had the experience of leading someone to the Lord was it planned or did it just kind of happen?
2. This was just an ordinary church meeting. What do you think got them tuned into what God was doing with Lydia? How can we be more attune to what is God is doing in our midst?
3. Do you enter church or small group with the mindset of everyone having a relationship with Christ? How can we get to the place where we have our ears and eyes open to what God is doing in church or in our small group?

No one was better at turning the mundane into the miraculous than Jesus. Let's look at an example in the book of Matthew Chapter 20.

**Read:** Matt 20:29-34

### **Two Blind Men Receive Sight**

*<sup>29</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. <sup>30</sup> Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"*

*<sup>31</sup> The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"*

*<sup>32</sup> Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.*

*<sup>33</sup> "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."*

*<sup>34</sup> Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.*

### **Questions:**

1. Why do you think the crowd rebuked the blind men? (Spiritual emphasis point – if you are going against the crowd there is a good chance you are following Jesus)
2. How does the world treat the insignificant people of our day? How do you treat those who are in position lower than yourself?
3. How did the blind man react to the shushing of the crowd? What were they asking for from Jesus?
4. How does Jesus handle their brashness? How do you handle inconveniences of your day? Are you aware of the people who are in positions that are less "important" than yours? Do you think opportunities to bring the now of the Kingdom will occur with people in high positions or those who may be in need?

5. How do you think the crowd felt when these two companions received this miraculous healing?
6. What was their response to the Kingdom breaking in on their lives?
7. With all the chaos going on how do you think Jesus was able to usher in the “now of the Kingdom”?

## **RESPONDING TO JESUS**

### **Personal response(s):**

As you go about your week keep your eyes and ears peeled to see what the Lord is doing. When you wake up ask the Lord if there is someone you need to go over and above for this today? Buy a coworker lunch, cut your neighbors grass, be friendly to someone who may not be high on anyone’s priority list, etc.

### **Group response(s):**

Spend some time waiting together on the Holy Spirit – what is He speaking to your group? In what areas do people need encouragement? In what areas do people need to take risks? Invite God’s power to release gifts of faith, insight, wisdom, prophecy, etc.