

# **The Kingdom of God**

**The 2 Kingdoms**

# The Kingdom of God

- The kingdoms of this world operate through the means of violence, power to control, and selfishness.
- These come natural to us. No one has to teach us these things.
- We are both perpetrator and victims of violence, power to control, and selfishness.

# The Kingdom of God

- Jesus showed us what the Kingdom of God looks like.
- Jesus showed us what should be the marks of His disciples.
- Our means and methods stand in contrast to the means and methods of this world.

# The Kingdom of God

- The first mark is that of surrender. We are invited to surrender our lives and hearts to Jesus and to the will of God.
- Surrender is hard. It looks like weakness to the world.
- Surrender is the only way to find strength through God who strengthens us.

# The Kingdom of God

- The second mark is that of serving others.
- Jesus came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.
- Serving others without expecting anything in return goes against our worldly ways.
- Serving others is the bait on the hook of our lives that will attract some so they can taste and see how good God is.

# The Kingdom of God

- The third mark is that of sacrificial love for God and others.
- The defining mark of God's people is to be our love. (John 13:35, Matt 22:36-40)
- Is our love for God and others our defining mark?

# The Kingdom of God

- The ways of the kingdoms of this world- violence, power to control, and selfishness seem natural and normal. Meanwhile the ways of God's kingdom seem unnatural and abnormal.
- Until we place our faith in Jesus.
- Then the ways of God's kingdom slowly become natural and normal while the ways of the kingdoms of this world become abnormal and not natural.

# The Kingdom of God

- Which kingdom do you operate out of everyday?
- Which kingdom comes more natural to you?
- May Jesus death and resurrection help us understand God's great love for us- a love that changes and transforms us.

# The Kingdom of God

- May we learn to surrender daily to God.
- May we look to live a life of serving others on behalf of God.
- May we sacrificially love those around us.
- May the ways of the Kingdom of God feel more and more natural and normal to us.
- May the ways of the kingdoms of this world feel more and more abnormal and unnatural to us.