



**It Begins With  
Attitude**

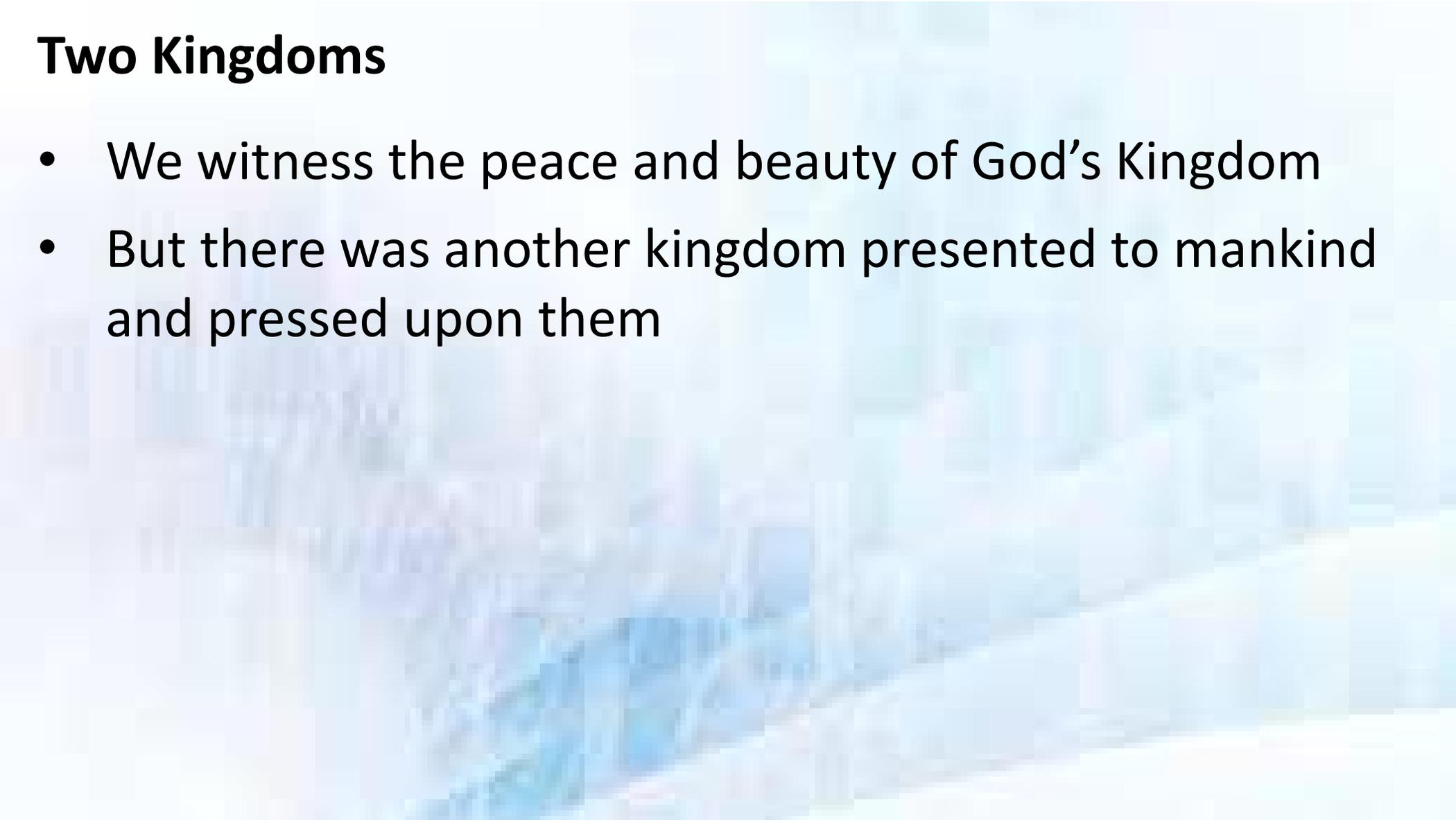
**Philippians  
2:5-11**

## Two Kingdoms

- When Solomon said in Ecclesiastes that there was nothing new under the sun, he was talking about human nature and the human experience
- In Genesis chapters 1-3 we find God created the heavens, earth, and everything in it
- This was to be God's Kingdom where righteousness was the rule

## Two Kingdoms

- We witness the peace and beauty of God's Kingdom
- But there was another kingdom presented to mankind and pressed upon them



## Two Kingdoms

- **Genesis 3:1-3 NIV**, 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”
- 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

## Two Kingdoms

- **Genesis 3:1-3 NIV**, 4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- Did you pick up on the kingdom being presented?
- Give away everything you have here in the garden with all its fences to keep you in place and seek what your heart truly wants - To be like God

## Two Kingdoms

- You know the rest of the story
- These are the same two kingdoms are presented to you today
- The Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Man which is really Satan
- You are seeking or living in one of these two kingdoms

## God's Kingdom

- God gave mankind His Word, Priests, Prophets instructing Israel how to live in His Kingdom
- Then Jesus came
- Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33 NIV**, When it comes to the priorities of this life you must, “But seek (*and keep seeking*) first his kingdom and his righteousness (*way of being*).”
- The first priority of every person is to seek their creator

## God's Kingdom

- Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33 NIV**, When it comes to the priorities of this life you must, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.”
- The second priority of every person is to learn how to imitate or think like their Creator
- God gives us the how in **1st Corinthians 2:16b KJV**, “Let (*and keep letting*) this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”

## Seeking God's Kingdom

- **Matthew 5:33 NIV**, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.”
- Jesus teaches in Matthew 5 what that seeking looks like
  - Instead of drawing attention to yourself, seek first His kingdom
  - When praying, seek first His kingdom and not your own

## Seeking God's Kingdom

- **Matthew 6:33 NIV**, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.”
- Jesus teaches in Matthew 6 what that seeking looks like
  - Instead of being consumed with treasures in this life, seek first treasures found in His kingdom
  - Instead of worry about this life, seek first His kingdom

## Seeking God's Kingdom

- But Jesus didn't use just His words, His whole life demonstrated what the Kingdom of God is and how to live like the King desires of His kingdom
- So, in other words, to seek and understand the Kingdom of God and His righteousness we must seek to grasp the King is and imitate how He lived

## Seeking God's Kingdom

- **Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT**, “Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. 2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.”
- It all begins with our attitude

## Living God's Kingdom

- **Philippians 2:5-11 NIV**, 5 In your relationships with one another (*and everything else in life*), have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
  - 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

## Living God's Kingdom

- **Philippians 2:5-11 NIV**, 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!
  - 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## Ephesians 2 is a chapter about Christian unity and living the Kingdom of God

- **Philippians 2:1-4 NIV**, “1 Therefore if (*since*) you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded (*as Christ*), having the same love (*as Christ*), being one in spirit and one mind (*with Christ*).

## Ephesians 2 is a chapter about Christian unity and living the Kingdom of God

- **Philippians 2:1-4 NIV**, 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit (*impressing others*). Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests (*alone*) but each of you to the interests of the others.”

## **Ephesians 2 is a chapter about Christian unity and living the Kingdom of God**

- This is a job description of a servant
  - Being like-minded with the Master or imitating the Master's thinking
  - Making decisions that will honor the Master and His name
  - Look out for the interests of the Master and not just our own because we are His servant

## Ephesians 2 is a chapter about Christian unity and living the Kingdom of God

- In describing what true unity and Kingdom living looks like, Paul uses the most powerful example he could find, our Lord Jesus Christ
  - The humility displayed in His life
    - **Matthew 8:20 NIV**, Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

## Ephesians 2 is a chapter about Christian unity and living the Kingdom of God

- In describing what true unity and Kingdom living looks like, Paul uses the most powerful example he could find, our Lord Jesus Christ
  - What was important to Him
    - **John 4:34 NIV**, “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”

## **Ephesians 2 is a chapter about Christian unity and living the Kingdom of God**

- In describing what true unity and Kingdom living looks like, Paul uses the most powerful example he could find, our Lord Jesus Christ
  - And it all started with His attitude
  - Attitude = a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior

## **Vs. 1** Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”

- Mindset = the established (*and practiced*) set of attitudes held by someone
- Now your first thought might be, “Well great, but I’m not Jesus!”
  - He didn’t struggle with sin, fear, anger, or struggles...like I do
  - This is Satan getting into your head

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- We forget we have been changed by salvation and we are not alone and helpless anymore
- **1st Corinthians 2:16b NIV**, “But we have the mind of Christ.”, through the Holy Spirit who lives within us
  - **KJV**, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”

## **Vs. 1** Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”

- Mind or mindset here does just not mean mental activity or intellectual process – it means attitude
  - **AMP**, “Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus”
- Be moving toward imitating Christ’s attitude and actions being your new normal by observing Him

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- Our human base attitude is our unguarded natural bent in how we think, make decisions, respond, or our habit of thinking
  - When left unguarded the human attitude is bent toward sinfulness, **Genesis 6:5 NIV**, The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- But there was an exception, **Genesis 6:8-9 NIV**, 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- Why was Noah different than all the others?
  - The infusion and acceptance of God’s perspective on his life
  - This natural bent can be modified as we apply God’s truth to the process
  - We go from an unguarded bent to a modified bent where God’s Word is brought to the foreground and our response flows through it and becomes modified

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- We are going to look at an event in the life of King David and the mindsets we find in David, Nabal, and Abigail
- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV, 2** A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel.
- This would be the harvest of wool, meat, cheese...

## **Vs. 1** Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV**, 3 His name was Nabal and his wife’s name was Abigail. She was an intelligent (*pleasant, precious, good, righteous*) and beautiful woman (*inside and out*), but her husband was surly (*bad-tempered, doggish, and unfriendly*) and mean in his dealings—he was a Calebite (*Jewish*).
- God provides for us Nabal’s and Abigail’s attitude in life

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV, 7** “Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. 8 Ask your own servants and they will tell you.

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV, 8** Therefore be favorable toward my men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.”
  - David and his men had guarded and protected the servants and flocks of Nabal and it was customary to share in the harvest

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV**, 10 Nabal answered David’s servants, “Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. 11 Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?”
  - Nabal is responding out of his base attitude (*surly, doggish, and mean*) without questioning the truth spoken or possible outcome

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV**, David’s response, 12 David’s men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. 13 David said to his men, “Each of you strap on your sword!” So they did, and David strapped his on as well. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.
  - This is David responding out of his base attitude

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV**, 14 One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. 15 Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. 16 Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them.”

## **Vs. 1** Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV**, 17 Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him.”
  - Get the scene in your mind
  - On one side is surly, prideful, arrogant Nabal with the other being offended David coming to a meeting of the minds – What is needed?

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV**, 20 As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them. 21 David had just said, “It’s been useless—all my watching over this fellow’s property in the wilderness so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good.

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV, 22** May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!”
- How is David responding?
  - Out of his unmodified human nature - pride, hurt
  - God is not saying David should not respond, but how He responds is equally important

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV**, 23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. 24 She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. 25 Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent.

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV, 26** And now, my lord, as surely as the Lord your God lives and as you live, since the Lord has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal.
  - An intelligent, godly, and modified response

## **Vs. 1** Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”

- **Proverbs 15:1-2 NIV**, A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV**, 32 David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. 33 May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. 34 Otherwise, as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”

## **Vs. 1 Paul instructs us to “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25 NIV, 35** Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.”
  - David’s response was modified based upon the godly words and character of Abigail
  - His attitude was open to the presence of God’s character

## Summary

- **No one is born with an attitude bent toward Christ**
  - **Jeremiah 17:9 NIV**, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”
  - An unguarded heart or mindset is deceitful especially to ourselves
  - Beyond cure – This is why we are given a new heart at salvation that is bent toward God

## Summary

- **No one is born with an attitude bent toward Christ**
  - Isaac Watts hymn, "*At the Cross*", Pg. 139  
Alas! and did my Saviour bleed,  
And did my Sovereign die?  
Would he devote that sacred Head  
For such a worm as I?
  - In today's hymnals, it reads "For Sinners such as I"
  - Wonder why it was changed?

## Summary

- **The same attitude as Christ is our goal we are training and straining toward**
  - Think of a coach training a world class runner
  - You're first thought might be, "Why do they need a coach? You just run and it depends upon your body type how successful you are."
  - That is partially true, body type does make some difference

## Summary

- **The same attitude as Christ is our goal we are training and straining toward**
  - Think of all the minute detail of winning the coach must teach – technique, attitude, grit, commitment, how to train and think....

## Summary

- **We all struggle with our attitude**
  - **James 3:2 NIV**, “We all stumble in many (*various and confusing*) ways”
  - Some are quicker at catching the unmodified response than others
  - Give yourself some grace but do not settle, keep moving toward Christ

## Summary

- **We all struggle with our attitude**
  - David wrote in **Psalms 141:3-4 NIV**, 3 Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips. 4 Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil so that I take part in wicked deeds along with those who are evildoers; do not let me eat their delicacies.

## Summary

- **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**
  - The key word in this command is, **Let**
  - The Holy Spirit is working in you to produce the attitude of Christ
  - Our action is simply to yield which is amazingly difficult and scary

## Summary

- **Remember our unguarded heart is deceitful**
  - We will wrestle with our heart and emotions until we decide to **LET** the nature of Christ infill our minds with His character
  - David let the mind of Christ rise to the surface and he was rescued
  - Nabal did not yield, and it cost him his life by “his heart failing him”

## Summary

- So, what is your decision?
  - Will you let and yield or continue to heap consequences of an unmodified mindset into your day?
  - Your decisions today have their effect on your tomorrow
  - What will your tomorrow look like, blessing or curse?



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